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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 298. SATURDAY. FEBRUARY 17, 1912. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

THIS

is ONE of the TWO patterns

FREE with This Week's MRS. BULL.

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JOHN BULL said :—"You are safe in the hands of

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writing for quotations. I lay you the market price prevailing when your instructions are post-marked.

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Stock Exchange Operations thoroughly explained, also Call Options. How to open an account with limited risk. How to avoid Broker's Commissions. Contains Highest and Lowest Sales for last 15 years. Gratis from Publishers—

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Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and published.

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production within seven days of publication (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claim has been received for our issue of Janu[illegible]

E. HAYLOCK, 18, Coultham Street, Lincoln. No 360,805. [illegible]

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of Janu[illegible]

19	125795	328509	454274	621307
8714	143185	336407	468146	641691
18404	154450	354934	494816	650732
23060	199294	368651	504314	688682
31306	208936	391616	517766	701659
48467	240572	405403	537789	721452
66637	253957	415434	549057	752622
79031	291540	422198	580711	775746
95233	302469	430488	599999	815667
115926	320275	443673	607556	848437

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED MARCH 16TH (PUBLISHED MARCH 14TH).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant:
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XII. No. 298. Week ending Saturday, February 17th, 1912. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

The John Bull League.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(confined to Members)
WILL BE HELD AT THE
WHITE HORSE HOTEL, CONGREVE STREET,
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, at 8 p.m.
BUSINESS • • ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A POPULAR WHIST DRIVE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HARDMAN STREET,
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26th.
:: GOOD PRIZES. ::
DOORS OPEN 7 O'CLOCK. COMMENCE 7.45 SHARP.
Tickets (price 1s. 6d. each, including refreshments) may be obtained from Mr. G. S. Haines, 48, Woodlands Road, Aigburth.

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

A WHIST DRIVE AND DANCE
WILL BE HELD AT THE
QUEEN'S HOTEL, CLIFTON,
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6th, 1912.
COMMENCE 7.45 P.M. :: DANCING TILL 11.30 P.M.
Tickets for Whist Drive and Dance (price 1s., including refreshments) may be obtained from the Queen's Hotel, or from the Hon. Branch Secretary, Mr. W. P. Frankham, The College, Westbury-on-Trym.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

At It Again.

The Talking Shop is re-opened, and the fun will soon begin. The Opposition has a card up its sleeve, with which to "trump" the Home Rule Bill, and when it is played there will be a row at the table. Meanwhile, the old game will proceed, as usual—the Party punters putting their stakes on either side—whilst *Le Banquier* Lloyd George draws in the shekels. We shan't play.

Tweedledum and—Dee.

If you would really appreciate the humbug of the game, just study the controversy between the respective adherents of Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Bonar Law over their Albert Hall and City Liberal Club speeches. Even the "experts" join in. Mr. W. R. Lawson, a financial journalist of high repute—but a Tory—proves that the Chancellor grossly mis-stated the facts and figures as to public expenditure and National Debt; whilst the Editor of the *Statist*—an eminent Radical "authority"—proves that every word spoken at the City Liberal Club was gospel truth. And, of course, we shall have it all over again in the House. There is, however, a very simple test for the man in the street to apply. Let him just put his hand in his pocket and count his money—if there be any to count!—and after comparing it with what he had in 1905, vote accordingly.

The Wrong Tense?

Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, with that unconscious self-righteousness which is his chief characteristic, fears that the country may not permit the Government to "complete its legislative programme," and attributes the danger to the "fault of all democracies—that they tire of well-doing." But isn't it the Government which, to employ a literary barbarism, does the well-doing, and the democracy who are well done?

Runciman to the Rescue!

Mr. Runciman is going to wake up British agriculture, by the expenditure of a big sum on "premium bulls." It is suggested to us that as, nowadays, there are none to be found on the Stock Exchange, the new President will have to go to the Irish Party for his supply. Next session should be prolific in production.

Exit Hooley!

The conviction of Mr. Hooley removes from the business world one of the strongest and strangest personalities of modern times. A man of uneven and unbalanced temperament, recklessness, and not conscious wrong-doing, has at length been his downfall. But there are worse men outside prison, and, whatever his failings, there were many dim eyes in the country last Saturday afternoon. We shall hear of him again.

A Word with Mr. Burns.

Will our right hon. friend make personal enquiry into the scandal connected with the Poor Law school at Ashford? It has to do with a little girl of thirteen and the late Charge-master.

A Terrible Threat.

Unless the Government toes the line on Labour questions this session, Ramsay Macdonald and his merry men intend to "make an indignant protest"—they do really! They may even "table a hostile amendment." Terrible fellows these Labour M.P.'s—under Ramsay's régime!

A Word to Mr. Churchill.

Mr. Churchill at Belfast was not at his best. But being by nature a fighter, and also a man of his word, he was bound to go. His mind, however, is clearly on the Navy, and at Glasgow he *was* at his best—and his best is very good. Our friendly advice to him now is to keep out of the limelight for a while. His "turn" will come. Meanwhile, common decency and sound statesmanship demand that, when maturing his plans for smashing a "friendly Power," he should do so in quietude and privacy.

Government up to Date.

Lord Haldane went to Germany to explain Mr. Churchill's Glasgow speech. Who is going to Paris to explain Lord Haldane's visit to Germany?

Labour Exchange Chaos.

According to a reliable report, the last state of the Labour Exchanges is worse than the first. Visitors who go to Queen Anne's Chambers to do business come away without doing it, because there is no one to do it with them. The only person who keeps his head is the office boy: everyone else spends his time in rushing about the passages like an infuriated maniac let loose from Bedlam. Messengers are occupied all day in carrying piles of papers from room to room without getting anyone to deal with them. A more hopeless muddle than now exists in the central office of the National Labour Exchanges it is impossible to conceive. And this is the office which is to administer Part II. of the National Insurance Act when it comes into operation! Heaven help those who are to be administered.

The Staff.

If there is chaos now, what will there be then? Who are the staff? Wild cranks from Toynbee Hall, explorers from the Sahara desert and the Arctic regions, the riff-raff sheddings of Lord Milner's South African underlings, and cast-off officers from the Army. There must be a stronger combination than this before the Board of Trade undertakes what the Germans gave up as impracticable.

The Cause of the Muddle.

What is now going on in Queen Anne's Chambers is the outcome of the Civil Service system, which is rotten to the core. So long as Ministers and Permanent Secretaries are allowed to pitchfork their private secretaries and relatives into responsible administrative posts, for which they have no training, so long will the rot go on. It is high time the promised Royal Commission got to work; but if the inquiry is to be a real and not a sham one, what a revelation of ineptitude there will be, due to the intrigue, both masculine and feminine, which is now rampant throughout the Civil Service.

Waiting Witnesses.

In our recent letter to Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady we sighed for a Business Bench. Business methods are equally required in all departments of our legal system. One of the greatest victims at present is the witness, who, subpœnaed to attend a particular trial, is often kept hanging about the Courts for days. We observe that a bank manager is complaining that one of his clerks was kept for eight days at the Old Bailey waiting to prove that a certain cheque form had not been issued to a prisoner (who would never have suggested that it had been!), and then was not called. The sooner the *Lay Lawyer* makes its appearance, the better.

"Nothing Succeeds like Success."

The Commander of the French warship *Triant*, who gallantly went out to the aid of the stranded *Delhi*, rightly received congratulation and reward. The navigating lieutenant of H.M. Gunboat *Skipjack*, who with equal gallantry went to the aid of the shipwrecked crew, was tried by court-martial and severely reprimanded because his vessel got stuck in the sand!

The "Sin"-ematograph.

Here is a letter from a Buenos Ayres reader, who not inappropriately signs himself "One of the K-nuts":—

> Why bother the B-hoys in the West End? Let them have their fling. We have seen some pictures that would make your hair stand on end (that is, if the wife has left you any). Why not send your Special Commissioner out to Buenos Ayres (where these filthy, but nice, pictures are shown in public), and we would be only too pleased to show him round? There is no chance of the Commissioner getting thrown out of the show at Buenos Ayres.

Fiat Justitia.

Our warm congratulations to the Secretary of the Gladstone League upon his acquittal. As he said in the box, how the little child got into his bedroom is a mystery—and it is equally wonderful how her sister should have thought she saw a man come into the room and carry the child away. The little thing must have been dreaming, and the fact that, having run down and told her mother of the imaginary incident, the missing sister was discovered on the Secretary's bed is but another strange incident in the strange story. But, there! truth is stranger than fiction, and again we congratulate the Gladstone League official upon his complete vindication—and likewise the *Daily News* upon its courage in publishing that part of the case, at any rate. We are glad, all the same, that it wasn't the Secretary of the John Bull League. In that case the *Daily News* might not have been so kind.

Another Pig Affair.

A member of our staff tells us that, while in a West End restaurant the other day, he heard a man complaining of the insipidity of his pork chops. "And I did not marvel," he continues, "for that very moment I was reading of the practice of some modern pig-breeders feeding their swine with a mixture of sawdust and treacle." We understand the R.S.P.C.A. are now making inquiries as to whether the mixture is proper food. And whilst they are on the job, we commend to their attention the article on another page, on the subject of Chinese pork. It is most appetising.

Belfast Dock Labourers.

We take it that if there is one class of people in Belfast which is more concerned than others as regards Home Rule, it is the labourers under the Harbour Commissioners. During the summer months these men received the magnificent weekly wage of sixteen shillings, which is reduced by two shillings in the winter. It requires no great stretch of imagination to hear them exclaim, "Let Home Rule come. Let us have a change of some sort. We couldn't be worse off under German rule." Mr. Churchill should make a note of their condition.

What a Fall Was There!

The *Worcester Daily Times*, in reporting a recent charge against a Malvern Link woman, describes a Dr. Watson as stating in his evidence that "she walked unsteadily, and stumbled over some of her words." Either the doctor or the reporter has behaved even worse—he has got mixed in his metaphor.

Church and Stage?

We are afraid that, in their over-zeal, the members of the Church of England are casting ridicule upon their resistance to the Government's proposals for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church in Wales. For instance, an advertisement in the *News and County Press*, in announcing a demonstration at King's Lynn, mentions that among the speakers will be the Lord Bishop of Thetford, Mr. S. J. Hoare, Mr. N. P. Jodrell and the Rev. J. H. Clayton, adding in prominent type the underline: 72 ARTISTS 72.

Willink Blinking.

The Rev. J. W. Willink, vicar of Great Yarmouth—where the bloaters come from—tries to go one better. In summoning a meeting under the auspices of the C.E.M.S. (Church of England *Men's* Society, this time, Mr. Printer), states that it will be "a case of 'First come—first served,' and that no admission can be guaranteed after the Hall is completely filled."

"DRAW IT MILD."

Doubtless the past, present, and future sins and wickednesses of Mr. Lloyd George are many and varied, but in its natural anxiety to heap them high and spread them on thick, the *Daily Mail* should give even our illustrious friend his due. "Far from continuing their recovery," says the *Mail's* leading article, "Consols are now below 78; the effect of his speech upon them was shown by a further fall directly the market opened." We shall soon see an announcement on the part of our enterprising contemporary's weather prophet that "The sun did not rise this morning on account of Mr. Lloyd George's iniquitous speech last night."

EXIT ARCHDEACON COLLEY.

The resignation of Archdeacon Colley has followed hard on our Open Letter to the Bishop of Worcester, asking whether the very rev. gentleman's sanity was sufficiently obvious to justify his further continuance in the active offices of the Church. When a cleric has reached a point of crazy eccentricity which allows of his being carried round his church in a coffin, from which he stares through a glass front at the members of his congregation, he has evidently reached the limits of sufferance, and the only question now is whether he shall be permitted to remain at large. The official announcement is that "Archdeacon Colley has placed his resignation in the hands of the Bishop of Worcester, who has accepted it," and it does not concern us to inquire too closely into the accuracy of its details. The satisfactory thing is that Stockton parish has done with this amazing, uncanny, and notorious cleric.

PRESS AND PARTY.

At a Football Club dinner and presentation recently held in North Hunts., the Radical and Tory Press of Peterborough were both represented. The guest of the evening was Mr. O. Locker-Lampson, Tory M.P. for the division, and during the evening he made a marriage presentation, replied to a toast, promised to bring a team of prominent gentlemen to play the local club, and sang a song. Comparing the reports of the function in the two newspapers, it was seen that the *Peterborough Express*, the Tory organ, was full of Mr. Locker-Lampson, whose name appeared in almost every line; whilst the Radical organ, *The Citizen*, never mentioned him at all—not even amongst the artistes. What a game it is!

A WREXHAM HERO.

A gentleman named Stoneley, of Belgrave Road, Wrexham, has attracted the attention of the local reporter. During the recent frost, two lads were skating on a flooded field, when the ice broke and they were immersed. "Their cries attracted the attention of Mr. J. Stoneley, of Belgrave Road, who happened to be passing at the time. Quickly realising the situation, Mr. Stoneley sent his son to Coedyglyn, the residence of Sir Robert Egerton, for assistance." Meanwhile somebody passed in a trap, and having taken off the reins of the horse, Mr. Stoneley was by their aid enabled to drag the boys to safety. Wherefore here's to Stoneley. He is hereby recommended for the medal for saving life at sea.

THE NEW DRINK.

Addressing a meeting of City men, Sir Thomas Barlow, President of the Royal College of Physicians, said that business men would be much more fit for work if, instead of treating and being treated during business hours, they carried electric batteries in their pockets and used them. Thus it is that the salutation, "Have an electric shock, old chap?" has been already heard in Throgmorton Street.

AN ACTOR'S QUERY.

Never was such audacity as that of Mr. Gerald du Maurier, the actor. He actually wants to know what special qualifications are needed for employment as a newspaper critic of art, literature, or the drama. Surely he knows! To be precise, the number of a critic's special qualifications is 1—that of being himself utterly unable to do the job he criticises. As our late lamented Rev. Brother Sterne says in "Tristram Shandy," "Of all the cants which are canted in this canting world, though the cant of hypocrites may be the worst, the cant of criticism is the most tormenting."

RELIGION OR BUSINESS?

Here is a characteristic advertisement of the Salvation Army: "Canadian Emigration. 200 men to sail February, March, April; work guaranteed. Staff Captain A. Pinchen, recently returned from Canada, will be pleased to advise you." Let us see how this works out. On the average, 200 men means 150 steerage at £6 each and 50 second cabin at £10 each. Five per cent. commission brings into Salvation Army coffers £45 for the steerage passengers and £25 for the second cabin; a total of £70. The inward-rail bookings will average £5 per passenger all round, as the emigrants will be induced to go north-west for the sake of the Canadian Government's bonus of £1; this at 10 per cent. brings the total to £170. A Liverpool reader adds to this, "average Canadian Government bonus, £40," which makes the grand total passing into the Salvation Army treasury £210. The figure of £40 needs some elucidation, and doubtless an amount would have to be deducted for assisted passages, but what is evident is that the Salvation Army is in the emigration business, as well as that of religion.

THE CANADIAN AT HOME.

We are still hearing from our many friends in Canada. "Calgary has been boomed very much," says one of them, "but a greater part of the so-called prosperity is merely on paper. Here, as in the eastern part of this 'God's own country,' sham, shoddy, lying, laziness, and the most fearful conceit reign supreme. A sixteen-years' resident told me the other day that if a Canadian ceased to swear he would lose the power of speech, for this is his natural means of expressing his thoughts and feelings. One is constantly told there are no poor here. How is it, then, that the *Morning Albertian* recently stated that the number of nameless graves of unknown people who have died through starvation would astonish the inhabitants? They talk out here of Canada for the Canadians. What I say to people at home is, 'Let 'em have it.'"

"NO POOR" IN TORONTO.

Confirmation about this starvation business comes from Toronto. "Free breakfast at Yonge Street Mission. 314 men line up on Sunday morning for Free Coffee and Sandwiches," runs a heading in the local *Advertiser*. "Charities Are Still Busy. Must Keep Supplying the Poor Till Weather Lets Up" are the headings of another paragraph. Still another heading reads, "Hungry, Homeless Men. Many in Toronto. All Institutions filled Last Night. Many Worked Hard for Accommodation. Appeal for Bedding." The truth is, the man who more or less starves at times in Britain will more or less starve at times in Canada. In everything except the climate and the lack of population, the North-West is simply Hades, and the Briton who starts there and can win through has enough pluck, patience, perseverance, and physique to win through anywhere on the face of the globe. He need not go to Canada at all.

Lost by Cat.

There is a man somewhere in these islands, at least so we hope, who picked up the *Bath Herald* a few days ago to hear of something to his advantage. This is what he found among the advertisements: "Will man who lost pigeon by cat in Lower Weston about 14½ years ago please reply for compensation? State address where loss took place." Evidently that pigeon lies heavily on the advertiser's insomnious conscience, and our advice to the claimant is to include in his account compensation for hurtage to the feelings of the pigeon, compound interest on the purchase money, and loss of pie.

No Praying Here.

A member of the Camberwell Borough Council, the Rev. H. E. Jennings, having moved that the Council's proceedings be opened with prayer, the resolution was "discussed with some levity," and defeated. The cause of the fun eludes us. Does it mean that the members of the Council are past praying for, or that prayer is the wrong remedy for their manifold imperfections? We must remind our rev. friend, as we have reminded many of his brethren, of the old story of the priest who, during a bad season of crops, was asked by several of his parishioners to go over the fields and offer prayer, and who did so until he came to a most unpromising lot. "Brethren," he said, "it is no use praying here. This piece of ground needs manure." Of course, with the House of Commons it is different. All the plots there are well "cultivated."

A Pulborough Tender.

We have received from a number of ratepayers in Pulborough a strong protest against the letting of a tender for workmen's cottages to a Billingshurst builder. They assert that the Thakeham District Council did not invite competitive tenders, that the builder who has got the job does not and will not employ Pulborough labour, that neither his residence nor his place of business is in Thakeham Union, and that none of the wages and profit is likely to be circulated in Pulborough. They also ask whether any member of the Housing Committee is in any way interested in the business of the builder who has secured the job, or in any firm which is to supply any of the material. Perhaps the Chairman will make enquiries and let us know?

"Average Englishman" No Good.

Mr. J. J. Whyte, secretary of the Grimsby Friendly Protective Society—apparently a body of fishermen—protests against the recent statement of Mr. W. L. Latten, "one of the leading business men on our docks," that "there is such a dearth of efficiently-trained and fully-qualified fishermen at Grimsby that owners are forced to look to foreigners to man their ships, taking them in preference to the average Englishman, who has not learned his business, knowing them to be better in every respect." Mr. Whyte does not dispute the fact, however, but he retorts that the responsibility for this state of things is on the owners themselves; they discourage the apprentice system by every means in their power. It is a local question of which we do not profess to have any knowledge. What rejoinder has Mr. Latten to make?

Very Airy.

Here is an extract from the *News of the World* report of the police court hearing of what is known as "the North London Poisoning Case." "Seddon brought his overcoat with him into the dock, whilst his wife wore a Scotch plaid semi-cape cloak. Seddon wore a brisk and businesslike air." It is as well he had the overcoat with him.

Cruel to be Kind.

The Strabane Guardians have passed a resolution to turn out of the workhouse all the children from five years to thirteen years old, in order that the police may find them wandering in the streets without visible means of subsistence, and thereupon bring them before the magistrates with a view to their committal to an industrial school, "where they will be taught useful trades and well educated." The intentions of the Guardians may be excellent, but if there is any authoritative person at Dublin Castle who finds time hanging heavily on his hands, he may as well examine them with a view to prohibition should any cruelty be likely to follow the turn out. The Guardians cannot be allowed to do evil that good may come. Nor should such unfortunates be sent to an industrial school, as though they had committed crime.

Vicar and Pauper.

The Rev. T. L. Ivens, vicar of Bilsby, who refused to bury a pauper in the churchyard of his native village because, by a misunderstanding, the Guardians had not settled with him for burying another pauper, has now been paid. "Evidently," he says in a letter to the Guardians, "some other means are needed to extract the small fee from the Board than the simple method which every other person responsible for a funeral uses. However, on future occasions I will endeavour to have your undertaker successfully waylaid, and a demand shall be made." The spectacle of a man who preaches in a Christian pulpit and officiates at a Christian altar taking such a tone on such a subject is illuminating. As the Clerk said, on reading the letter to the Board, "Very few of the clergy ever dream of asking for a fee in such cases." This parson is in the minority. It is their money he wants.

Latest News.

The Y.M.C.A. is still pegging away for the £100,000 to pay for its new "Home"; and foreign "Missions" are still collecting several millions a year. At home, two old women, who lived together, and who, during the recent cold spell, vainly tried to beg a bit of coal, were found dead, with practically no bedclothing on their emaciated bodies. But God is in His Heaven—so *that's* all right.

Not Cricket.

There seems to be a wide difference between the "amateur" who plays ~~cricket~~ for Australia and the one who plays for England. There has been bickering among the Australians over the choice of men for the Test matches, and now two members of the Selection Committee have actually come to blows. Imagination boggles at the notion of Lord Hawke and Mr. P. F. Warner having "dukes up" at Lord's over the composition of an English eleven. The truth is that these Australian cricketers are in the game for the money they get out of it. Nobody blames them for that; but they should frankly own themselves "professionals." It is invidious to print their names on the score sheet with the prefix of "Mr.", while our own players are contemptuously labelled by their surnames only. It isn't cricket.

Human Society.

The Bishop of Southwark has been telling a Tooting audience that human society has always been better than its principles—and often worse, he might have added, than its professions.

Dean Farrar on Party.

"Any lie, however often refuted, is good enough for Party spite."

[From "Early Christianity," vol. ii., p. 87.]

MASCOTS.

How strange is the belief in mascots. On the morning of the day upon which we lost a £50,000 case we wore several which had been sent us by sympathising readers —and we put them on again the day that Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady mulcted us in about another £50,000. And here we have a letter from a young man who tells us he is "blessed with a 'gammy' leg," and that lately his "luck has vanished completely." He then asks us (as we are "so lucky"!) to send him "a mascot or talisman to exercise a charm and cause the bad luck to go away." We are packing him up a big box.

THE JUDGES ON STRIKE.

The judges now go on strike on every possible excuse. The other day the lot of them, Mr. Justice Scrutton excepted, threw up their jobs for no other and better reason than that their Majesties were attending a thanksgiving service in St. Paul's. This meant, of course, that the whole legal machinery was brought to a dead stop, and litigants put to inconvenience and expense, while their lordships stole a holiday to which they were no more entitled than any other British workman. Mr. Justice Scrutton felt so lonely that he had to explain why he was working. "I am sitting," he said, "because it is a statutory day for the sitting of the court." Precisely, and he is hereby forgiven. On the whole, as a nice, light, easy, profitable, dignified, and impressive job, a British judgeship is hard to beat.

DEBATING "BUSINESS GOVERNMENT."

All the Local Parliaments and Debating Societies are now discussing our set form of motion—"That the present system of Party Government is inconsistent with the best interests of the nation, and ought to be abolished"—and most of them are carrying it.

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

CYCLIST (*to friend, on dismounting after winning Vegetarian Club's long-distance contest*): "About an hour ago I swallowed a fly. Don't say anything, old chap, or they will disqualify me!"

PARTY POLITICS.

"MY WORD! HOW YOU'VE GROWN!"

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating of Admiral Sir Francis Bridgeman that "when he took command of the Second Cruiser Squadron in 1905 *he called the men of his flagship aft and told them that when there was* NOTHING *to do he* DIDN'T WANT THEM TO DO IT,"

THE PENNY PICTORIAL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an advertisement in the January issue of the "Castle Hill Church Magazine": "Time to think about a Suit for AUTUMN!"

MESSRS. WRIGHT & SONS
(12-20, Market Place, Warwick)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its description of the football match between the Partick Thistle and Dundee teams in the first round of the Scottish Cup that: "An hour AFTER *the* START *there is every evidence that a huge crowd will witness the match,"*

THE SATURDAY POST (DUNDEE)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "To find anything approaching the present severe arctic spell it is necessary to go back as far as 1895. *The frost, which began at the end of* DECEMBER, 1894, LASTED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF MARCH, 1905,"

THE LIVERPOOL ECHO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a character in one of its stories "sprang forward, with his arm upraised, his FIST CLENCHED, *his* FINGERS UNFOLDED,"

YES OR NO
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a recent libel action that the story complained of "described how a Mr. George Flanders walked with two young ladies near the Marble Arch, and that, after taking tea with them, he found he was without a SON,"

THE EVENING GAZETTE (ABERDEEN)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of an interview with Mrs. Kubelik: "'Our eldest daughters, who are TWINS, *both play the violin,' she said. 'They are aged* SEVEN *and* TEN *years,'"*

THE DAILY EXPRESS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its account of the arrangements for the First Lord's recent visit to Belfast: "Mr. Winston Churchill will leave Euston TO-NIGHT *at* 8 *o'clock, and will travel to Belfast, via Stranraer and Larne. He will return by the same route to Glasgow* IN THE EVENING,"

THE EVENING CHRONICLE (NEWCASTLE)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that for a recent meeting of the Cumberland County Council notice of a certain motion was given by "Alderman Potter, WHO MADE SUCH A STRONG FIGHT FOR A NEW BRIDE *three months ago,"*

THE PENRITH OBSERVER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "This afternoon the pond (in Broomfield Park) will be CROWDED *if the thaw continues,"*

THE BOWES PARK WEEKLY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Entrants for this competition are reminded that "Biscuits" are not awarded for mere misprints, unless of a humorous or extraordinary nature. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. No coupons are required. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.*

WHY NOT STOP GERMANY NOW?

WHY WAIT FOR HER CONVENIENCE?—LORD HALDANE'S "FRIENDLY" VISIT.—THE INSULT OF THE STEWART INCIDENT.

Germany has just been swept by a wave of socialism, and the ruling classes are alarmed. Something must be done to divert the mind of the masses from domestic problems, and the best thing is to drive them mad with war fever. Therefore a further increase in the Navy and Army, and, in the meantime, a further insult to that stupid, stolid old fool, John Bull. Such is the policy of the German "Government" to-day.

And what is ours? To submit quietly and look on whilst our naval supremacy is being steadily undermined, and our European position is being deliberately challenged? Whilst a fellow countryman—of good character and repute—is subjected to a Star Chamber "trial" and a brutal sentence, on the tainted evidence of a criminal hireling? Whilst our great trade rival is stealing away our markets? Whilst our "philosophical," self-complacent War Secretary is dining with the Kaiser and being humbugged by his "advisers"? Whilst, in the phrase of our own First Lord of the Admiralty, Germany, without need or justification, is permitted to revel in the "luxury" of a colossal navy—constituting an ever-growing menace to that supreme sea-power which is the vital guarantee of our national existence?

We ask again—is *that* our policy?

Plain Words.

Let us speak plainly—and we speak for the Man in the Street. We are tired of this fooling. Germany means mischief—*but she is not quite ready*—and we are obligingly awaiting her convenience. That was Sir Edward Grey's mistake over the Morocco crisis. He missed his opportunity. It may be, of course, that *we* were not quite ready, in which case he was wise not to force the pace. There was so much muddle and chaos in the Admiralty before Mr. Churchill took matters in hand that Heaven only knows what would have happened had the fleet been suddenly called upon for action. But things are being put straight, and the time has come when we might, with advantage, tell the Kaiser that we object to his new naval programme; that in our view, as natural mistress of the sea, no further German ships are justified; *and that they must not be built.* A similar hint to Austria would not be out of place. Now, Mr. Churchill, here is your opportunity. Don't listen to the specious and plausible Haldane when he gets back from dinner with the Kaiser. Just look the *facts* in the face. You are a shrewd fellow, and you *know* what is going on.

The "Casus Belli."

But, we shall be asked, where is the *Casus Belli?* We reply that it is at hand in the recent farcical trial of Mr. Stewart. Just contrast it with the way in which we have dealt with the latest German spy case—in which there was not a particle of doubt as to the guilt of the prisoner. Yet we gave him a fair and open trial, whilst the judge urged the jury not to be influenced by any other consideration than that of the effect of the evidence. In the other case, we have a secret enquiry, a corrupt witness and a passionate declaration of innocence from the lips of an English gentleman. Here is what a well-informed correspondent says:—

> The fact that all Germany is suffering from a virulent attack of spy fever, and sees a spy in every harmless tourist, does not excuse the scandal of Mr. Stewart's trial. He was sentenced to three and a half years' imprisonment upon the *unsupported testimony of a police spy* who had been repeatedly convicted of fraud, embezzlement and forgery. This creature introduced himself as an interpreter, and declared to his employers that *in one day* Mr. Stewart obtained valuable information at Auxhaven, Heligoland, Wilhelmshaven, and Bremerhaven, but not a scrap of this information was produced, nor does it exist.
>
> The statement that Mr. Stewart could have been in so many different places at one and the same time was so obvious an impossibility that no British judge would have listened to such a farrago of nonsense; and when the word of an English gentleman of unimpeached honour is flouted, and that of a gaol-bird taken in preference, it is obvious that no British traveller in Germany is safe from imprisonment, however trumped up be the charge or worthless the evidence. Mr. Stewart's conviction is more than an outrage on justice: it is a warning which every man and woman in the United Kingdom who may be thinking of visiting any part of Germany must take to heart.
>
> The truth is that the amazing victories of the Socialists in the recent elections have driven the whole of the officials in Germany well nigh frantic, and the Junker press hopes, by beating the Jingo drum loud enough, to lead the people to believe the Fatherland is in danger. The German Camarilla will stop at nothing to divert the four and a quarter millions of socialist voters from assailing their privileges, and Mr. Stewart is only a pawn in their game. Such of the German officials as are not in a "blue funk" lest England should smash their Navy now, and destroy their commerce, are "on the pounce" to entrap by any means innocent, unsuspecting tourists. As Herr Bessermann says, "Some means must be devised by the German Government to get some popular ideas into the people's heads." Therefore the "Pigotts" of Germany are, and will be, kept busy.
>
> By stigmatising Mr. Stewart as "a spy," his German accusers entrench themselves impregnably behind international law, and however infamous the nature and origin of the evidence may be, Mr. Stewart cannot hope for justice save through diplomatic channels. As an honourable man, falsely accused, unfairly tried, and convicted upon the sole evidence of a criminal of the lowest type, he must suffer the indignities of a German prison, and nothing can procure his release save a plea *ad misericordiam*—which would besmirch his honour and be repulsive to him, or such a protest from our Foreign Office as is not likely to be made.

Sir Edward Grey's Duty.

That "Protest," however, *must* be made. But not over nuts and wine at the Kaiser's dinner table. It must be made in a formal and unambiguous dispatch from the Foreign Office, backed up by the moral support of Parliament; and if *we* were Foreign Secretary we should ask Lord Haldane and Mr. Churchill each to add a Postscript—"I concur in the above," and sign it respectively, "For the British Army" and "For the British Navy." That would be Business. And if our Protest were unheeded? *Then we would, without further ceremony, sink every blessed German ship to the bottom of the sea.* We could do it to-day. To-morrow it may be too late.

Business, Common Sense, True Patriotism, Sound Statesmanship—all cry aloud:

To-Day!

Party Expediency, Craven Fear, Morbid "Humanitarianism," Mawkish Sentimentality, and Bunkum "Brotherhood"—whimper:

TO-MORROW.

Home Rule, National Insurance, Welsh Disestablishment, Manhood and Womanhood Suffrage—to Jericho with the lot of them for the moment. When your castle is being attacked you do not set about rearranging the furniture or listening to the servants' grievances; you mount the battlements and the gun holes, and flood the moat and draw up the bridge. Oh for a Business Government!

AN OLD TRICK.

THE "NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAIN COMPANY."

Many poor people in Acton have recently been victims of a barefaced swindler. His method was to go from door to door explaining that he was a canvasser for a Nottingham lace firm, which was about to open a branch establishment in the district. After a few minutes' talk, he introduced a card, of which the following is a reproduction :—

No. 94. Advertising Check. 1s.

NOTTINGHAM LACE CURTAIN Co.,
10, *St. Petersgate, Nottingham.*
Also at Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Greenwich and South Tottenham.
Local Branch: 7, High Street, Acton.
In Opening the above Branch we are issuing as an advertisement 100 Shilling Checks. Every holder of one of these checks is invited to select from our Stock ONE PAIR OF LACE CURTAINS.
Value 3s. 11d.
Length 3 yards, width 54 inches (free of further cost), on presenting same on or after Monday Next.
Received the Sum of One Shilling.
Agent's Signature
For N.L.C.—January, 1912.

How many shillings the rogue-managed to rake in is problematical, but the number must have been considerable.

Our enquiries show that there is no such firm as the Nottingham Lace Curtain Co. at 10, St. Petersgate, Nottingham, and of course no local branch at 7, High Street, Acton.

The scoundrel is probably carrying on his trick in some other part of the country. Perhaps the police will take notice.

DIVORCE BY INSTALMENTS.

SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TWO SOLICITORS.

A correspondent, who is a poor working man, informs us that some time ago he desired to obtain a divorce from his wife on account of her infidelity, and he accordingly consulted a solicitor, who, after charging 6s. 8d. for advice and two guineas for enquiries, agreed to undertake the whole proceedings for £35—£10 to be paid down and the balance by weekly instalments of 10s.

The case was put in the undefended list, as neither the wife nor the co-respondent had entered an appearance. but on the morning of the trial another solicitor filed an affidavit to the effect that he was interested in the case, and would be willing to undertake the defence on the ground that the petitioner had been guilty of cruelty. The application was granted and the case adjourned. Shortly after, this solicitor taxed his costs at £12 17s. 10d., which the petitioner had to pay, and had to secure the further sum of £25 for future costs. In addition, an order was obtained for alimony at the rate of 6s. per week. This delayed the matter for seven months, but the petitioner was not yet at the end of his troubles. The night before the hearing of the case he was told that unless he signed a new agreement, undertaking to pay the ordinary scale of costs, counsel would not be instructed to appear and the witnesses would not be brought to court. The petitioner protested, but in the circumstances was compelled to submit.

At the trial the intervention proved unjustifiable, and the petitioner obtained his divorce. We think the Law Society would do well to investigate the conduct of the two solicitors concerned. We shall be happy to forward their names.

"THE NOTORIOUS HAYWARD'S HEATH MAGISTRATES."

In our last issue, under this heading, we referred to a case lately before the Hayward's Heath Bench. By an unfortunate slip on the part of a shorthand-writer, due to a slight similarity in sound, the name of the person charged was given as "Charles H. Moore," whereas, in fact, that gentleman was the prosecutor, the defendant being one Nelson Fermor. We are exceedingly sorry for any misunderstanding which may have arisen among persons unacquainted with Mr. Moore, and are glad to think that both himself and the facts of the case are too well known locally for this to have happened in the circle whose good opinion he, naturally, most values. We tender him our sincere apologies.

DEFRAUDING SLATE CLUBS.

PROFESSIONAL MALINGERERS.

There is no doubt that slate clubs are beneficial to the working man generally. Their help in the case of a member's illness is obvious, and the "share-out" at Christmastime is in all cases eagerly looked forward to; but there are slate clubs whose dividend at the end of the year is much below the amount that should be distributed, owing to the following systematic fraud that is practised year after year.

A certain class of loafer will join, say, half-a-dozen of these clubs, paying to each 6d. per week. This he continues regularly for the first thirteen weeks of the year. Then his business of receiving commences.

He can generally find some excuse to be under a doctor, and if he cares to take the risk he can place himself on the "sick list" of all the clubs. Each club pays him 10s. (or thereabouts) per week for the first ten weeks and 5s. per week for the next ten weeks; this makes a total of £45 he receives for his first outlay of 39s.

Otherwise he can arrange that he is on the sick list of two clubs at a time, and out of the benefits he derives he can pay the contributions of the other clubs. In this manner he can make all the six clubs last through the year, at the end of which he takes his share of the dividend, perhaps amounting in all to £5 or £6.

Of course the class of loafer who does this never does any manual labour, and runs a very small risk of detection in the latter scheme.

Every slate club secretary should safeguard his members by reporting weekly, to one centre, the names and addresses of members on the "sick list" and this would undoubtedly clear the books of men who gain a livelihood by the thrift of others, and would enforce the rule that no member shall belong to more than one slate club.

"WITHOUT SECURITY."

WHO IS "MR. IAN HAMILTON YOUNG"?

It will be remembered that in our issue of January 13th we commented upon the methods of business of a firm of money-lenders named Griffiths and Griffiths, of 18, Red Lion Street, Holborn, who, while advertising that they lent money without security, after extracting a fee from a railway guard demanded a guarantee from a householder. Many other similar cases were brought to our notice in regard to the same firm, who, however, wrote us that, in deference to such complaints, they were discontinuing the practice of taking fees.

Our attention has now been called to an advertisement emanating from the same address and inserted by "Mr. Ian Hamilton Young." This announcement is in terms practically identical with those we quoted when commenting on Messrs. Griffiths and Griffiths' business—including the phrase "No security required." We wonder whether "Mr. Ian Hamilton Young" takes enquiry fees now that Griffiths and Griffiths have renounced them. And, by the bye, who *is* he?

"WOMEN'S DOMESTIC GUILD OF CANADA."

AN EXPLANATION REQUESTED.

The office of the above society is at 71, Drummond Street, Montreal, and its aim is to form a reliable means of communication throughout the Empire to facilitate women obtaining employment in Canada. Passage money is advanced to approved applicants, but it must be repaid when situations are secured. The organisation in a leaflet states: "We do not bring out girls under 18 years of age." But we are credibly informed that girls of tender age *are* imported into Canada by this Guild. For instance, one of our readers says :—

> I engaged one of these girls, but found she was only 17. She was such a simple child, too, that I dare not let her go out of doors alone. I took her out every day for a walk. If a man smiled at her (she was good looking) she smiled at him in return—and all quite innocently. In the end I was obliged to return her to the Guild—advising them to send her into the country. Montreal was no place for her, and the responsibility placed on my shoulders was too great.

Perhaps the Guild will explain.

STARTLING "PRUDENTIAL" CONFESSION.

THE CONFESSIONS OF AN AGENT—TWO HUNDRED "SAMPLE SIGNATURES."

"A WELL-KNOWN COMMON PRACTICE."

In our criticisms of the Prudential Assurance Company we have tried to make it clear that in our opinion the Company's system is responsible for the frauds and forgeries upon the policy holders which have been proved to be so appallingly numerous. The system forces the agent to get increase of business at any cost; thus the agent has to choose between the loss of his livelihood and in many cases gaining it by dishonest methods. Human nature being what it is, he too often yields to the pressure brought to bear upon him by the Company, and resorts to fraud and forgery which are repellent to his better nature, and which under a sounder system he would be saved from.

We have received a striking addition to the mass of evidence in our possession bearing upon this question. It is no less than the signed confession of a Prudential agent, and it is a terrible testimony to Prudential methods. For obvious reasons we are withholding the name of the writer of the confession, but we do not think it likely that the Company will challenge us to prove the genuineness of the document, for once more they will be persuaded that discretion is the better part of valour.

We cannot do better than give the actual words of the confession, leaving out the prefatory part, which describes in detail the means by which the man forged certain signatures. The rest of the confession is as follows:—

The Confession.

It was a common practice for the agents to forge the name of the proposer. In the case of an illiterate it was, of course, simplicity itself, as there could be no possibility of discovering the forgery by the document itself. Where, however, the proposer could write his name more care was required, and the course I adopted was as follows:—

I by some means secured an original signature of the assured, which I retained until the occasion arose when I could use it, in the meantime having, of course, designs for effecting a policy or policies upon his life for other people. I have at the present time an envelope containing over 200 sample signatures of people whose names I have forged by the following means: I placed the signature of the person to be insured against the window and then placed a blank form over it and traced the assured's name. In this way I effected hundreds of policies and retained the original signatures for future use with a view to securing further additional policies later on. Over 6,000 policies passed through my hands whilst I was agent for the Prudential, a large number of which were effected in this manner. I may say that I was originally taught this method of forging signatures by one of the Superintendents. It was a well-known and common practice amongst Prudential agents, and no doubt originated through pressure from Assistant Superintendents to increase business. The assistant-superintendents were continually pressing agents for business, as an increase of their own salary depended upon an increase of business. The Superintendents in turn pressed the Assistants, the Inspector pressed the Superintendents, and the chief office no doubt pressed the inspectors. There was great rivalry between Assistants and Assistants, Superintendents and Superintendents, and inspectors and inspectors.

In order to get an increase of business the means commonly adopted was to send Special Canvassers into a district. These were brought to the agents by the Superintendent, and the Special Canvasser had to go round with the Agents, who were paid on the increase of business secured. These men represented themselves as inspectors sent down from London from the Head Office, but, as a fact, they held no appointment under the Company. The great worry and strain brought upon agents by assistant-superintendents, and the fact that they had to cover all lapsed business with new business without commission or reward, drove agents to resort to all manner of means to secure business, as in the case of not showing an increase they would be liable to dismissal or be asked to resign.

I had a fair knowledge of insurance law at the time these policies were effected, and knew perfectly well that the policies were invalid, but in order to compete with other agents I had to adopt the same methods.

I have at the present time an envelope containing over 200 sample signatures of people's names I have forged.

So swears the agent. His confession might be the confession of thousands of other agents. It may be said that there is nothing in it to prove that the authorities at Holborn Bars are cognisant of these misdoings, or would not punish those who practised them if only they knew of them. It is true that the confession does not bring home to the Company direct connivance, but that it has largely profited by these practices is certain.

A Recent Case of Forgery.

The last case in which the Prudential has been judicially branded with fraud and forgery is that of Leyman *v.* Prudential, which came before His Honour Judge Lush-Wilson, K.C., and a jury at Exeter County Court, on February 5th.

Mrs. Leyman sued for the return of £19 10s. 8d., being moneys which she alleged she had been induced to pay in respect of a policy taken out on the life of her mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma Leyman. The latter lady swore that she had never signed the proposal form.

His Honour left to the jury the questions which we append, and their answers we also give:

Question (1) Did the Defendant's Agent, and which of them, falsely and fraudulently represent to the Plaintiff that she had an insurable interest in the life of her mother-in-law?

Answer: Yes; but we cannot say which Agent.

Question: (2) Did such Agent further falsely and fraudulently represent to the Plaintiff that the Plaintiff could legally insure the life of her mother-in-law without the knowledge of such mother-in-law?

Answer: Yes.

Question: (3) Did the Plaintiff's mother-in-law in fact sign the proposal form?

Answer: No.

Question: (4) Was the signature on such proposal form a forgery by the Defendant's Agent?

Answer: Yes.

Question: (5) Was the Plaintiff's mother-in-law aware of the fact of the existence of such a proposal form, or until this action was about to be brought, of the existence of the policy of assurance?

Answer: No.

Question: (6) Did the Plaintiff accept the policy of assurance and pay all premiums that have been paid upon the faith of, and in the belief that, the representations referred to in questions 1 and 2 were true in substance and in fact?

Answer: Yes.

Question: (7) And that the policy of assurance was a valid one upon which on the death of her mother-in-law she would be entitled to payment of the sum insured from the Defendants?

Answer: Yes.

Upon these findings His Honour directed the return of the premiums claimed and allowed an extra advocate's fee.

FARM SERVANTS IN SOUTH WALES.

WHY GO TO CANADA?

By "AWAY FROM THE LAND."

[*Below we publish a description of the hard life of farm servants in South Wales, the writer—now a collier—giving further testimony to the disgraceful treatment frequently meted out to boys placed with farmers by reformatory officials—treatment in which the Home Office authorities have repeatedly acquiesced.*]

I have from time to time read your articles on the treatment of reformatory boys who have been sent to different parts of the country as farm servants. Being one of them myself once, I think that I am fully qualified to say a word or two on their treatment, not in Canada, but in Wales. I could take you to hundreds of farms in South Wales where you would be surprised at the treatment meted out to the servants. In this district of Carmarthen you will find the farm servants sleeping in apartments over cowsheds, stables, and, in some instances, over pig-sties. This apartment generally consists of a part of a cowshed or stable boarded off for the use of the servants. Its furniture is merely a bed of doubtful cleanliness. In the farms I have been serving the beds were not fit for pigs to lie on, being full of every kind of vermin and very dirty. The food was always of the very commonest and of very doubtful quality. At the first farm I went to I was received with much kindness—in the presence of the school official.

I had been in this farm exactly 5 hours when the boss came to me and said, "Come here, John, I want to show you your bedroom." I followed him, of course, and was conducted to the cowshed. There I climbed about half-a-dozen steps and found myself in a little room with faint signs of whitewash on the walls, but very dirty with hen droppings, and two or three hens sleeping on a bed in the corner of the room. I asked my master if this was my bed. "Oh, yes," he said, "here the boys have slept for many years." And sleep in that bed I had to. As I remember it now, a shudder runs through my frame. What with the fleas, rats, mice, and every other kind of vermin, sleep was out of the question; and the stink of the cattle below was enough to suffocate the strongest man. Well, after a few nights in this torture chamber I made up my mind to run away, which I did. I went to a farm a few miles from there, but I found things worse than in my last situation! I therefore thought it best to have a fair and square talk with the boss; this I did, with the result that I was given a room which was used for a store-house. Here again the food was too common and the hours of work too long—16 to 17 hours a day did not suit me. So after a little thought, I went to a gentleman near by and asked him if he knew of a farmer who wanted a servant. He told me of a gentleman who had been asking him to look out for a boy, and he assured me that he was noted for his kind treatment to servants. I applied for this job and got it. Here I thought that I had found just what I wanted—a district councillor, and a Christian, highly respected, and plenty of work and good food in the bargain. But here again I had to put up with the same as in the other places, except the hours, which were much less in the winter but more in summer. The food was common. There being 40 milking cows on the farm, one expected plenty of milk on the table, but I got none except in my tea, and that not always—never fresh, but skimmed milk. I was always a student of the different men whom I came in contact with and had to serve, but the worst of them all were those who professed to be Christians, or tried to make others believe in their good mode of living.

If JOHN BULL doubts any of these statements, I will with pleasure conduct anybody whom he cares to send to me round the farms here in South Wales, and I am sure that he will be surprised at what he sees. For example, milking cows with hands daubed with cow manure, while the milk and cow-dung combine and drop into the milking pail.

I will wind up by saying that I will be pleased if you will take this matter up and let the public know what farm life is in South Wales from the servant's point of view.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CLXXXI.

[*In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.*]

"TOSSED FROM PILLAR TO POST."

Here is the statement of a distressed wife. A titled lady is using her influence to get the patient into a consumption hospital. Perhaps some of our readers can lend a helping hand to the family:—

My husband, Albert Arthur Goodain, aged 35, a milk carrier, left England in October last to go to Australia. He was passed by all the doctors as perfectly sound. After being on board ten days, he vomited blood, and was put in hospital at 7 p.m. He was given a jug with milk and ice in it. A man in the next bed took the milk and ice, and my husband had nothing until 8 o'clock the next morning, when one of the stewards came to him. No doctor visited him in the hospital, so he left it, but was not allowed to sit at the table with the other passengers, as they complained of his coughing. He was unable to eat the food offered him, and asked for something different, but all they gave him was two or three pounds of stewed prunes. On arrival at Freemantle three doctors asked him if he had been examined. The ship's doctor said "Yes," but my husband replied, "You have not examined me." The shore doctors examined him and would not allow him to land. He was taken on to Melbourne, and then brought back to Freemantle. His sister saw him on the boat there and she was told he had consumption. They would have allowed him to land if he could have been kept in a sanitorium for six months, but as that would cost three guineas a week it was out of the question. He was brought back to England, and when he arrived home he had sores on his ears owing to the hardness of his bed. He arrived home on the 17th of last month, and was admitted to the infirmary three days later. In order to follow him (which I expected to do in April) I sold up the home, and all I have left is a table, a bedstead, and a few chairs. I have three children, aged 13, 12 and 8 years respectively. I do blouse work, but all I earned last week was 5s. 6d.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXXI.—A. C. (Glasgow), 2s. 6d.
CLXXIV.—B. E. J., 1s.
CLXXVIII.—"Zoraster," 7s.
CLXXIX.—"Jemima," 1s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; "Meboj," 2s; "Mary," 2s. 6d.; K. and G., 1s.; E. A., 5s.
CLXXX.—L. E. H. M. (Hastings), 10s.; "Essex," 2s. 6d.; "Chum," 2s.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; "Anonymous," 2s. 6d.; W. J. G., 3s. 6d.; "Dinkey Do," 5s.; "A Sympathiser," 1s.; A. E. L., 10s.; M. B., 5s.; "Swallows," 2s. 6d.; "Swallows' Mate," 2s. 6d.; A. D., 5s.; "A Thank Offering," 10s.; "Variety Show," 1s.; W. H. F., 5s.; A. A., 2s.; A. D., 1s.; E. E. P., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. R. W., 2s.; R. C., 1s.; "Fag," 5s.; W. G. G., 3s.; Miss E. N., 4s.; "A Sister," 2s.; "York Leaguer," 1s.; Mrs. O'B., 2s. 6d.; "Kit," 2s. 6d.; T. G. J., 5s.; "X." (Brighton), 10s.; W. D., 1s.

PITY THE POOR EDITOR.

A GEM FROM OUR LETTER BAG.

Will you please favour me (and go one better) by saying:

Are Freemasons, their widows or orphans, privileged by the law to criticise the supposed habits of the people, young and old, they pass in the street and give unsolicited advice?

What is the best course to adopt to put a stop to such annoyance? If you would oblige by answering as far as you can I shall be greatly assisted.

I have been endeavouring to find out who certain strange girls are who have continuously annoyed me from time to time with offensive personal remarks in the street, and appear to be many and know one another, and your kind replies to my queries may greatly assist me in a decision.

They have quieted down a little lately, but I prefer to find out in an inexpensive way, as the information will prove useful for following up enquiries as to their names, addresses (occupations?)

THE MEAT SCANDAL.

ALL ABOUT CHINESE PORK.

By a Practical Butcher.

[*In a previous article we dealt with the inadequacy of inspection at the London Central Meat Market, and also with the diseased condition of Australian imported beef. We now direct attention to the question of Chinese pork.*]

Although various writers are very prolific in their condemnation of the Chinese pig, there is not one who has yet suggested a practical remedy.

After the action, or I should say the inaction, of the legislature with regard to the importation of Chinese pork into this country, it is important that we should have it only if produced under sanitary conditions.

I am a practical butcher of 17 years' experience, and have been for the last nine years in the employ of one of our well-known passenger-carrying shipping companies trading to the Far East. Of this period about three years were passed on the China station, including about eight months actually spent in Shanghai; I have also a good experience of Hong Kong and Tsingtau to my credit, acquired in later years. As butcher of the ship, I have the selection of the various meats supplied, amounting at times to a considerable quantity.

I have travelled to and from China for the last eight years and have made many inland excursions, always taking the keenest interest in anything appertaining to my trade.

In the first place, Chinese pork in its present state is unfit for European food. Pork is demanded and pork is obtained, the consignor and consignee caring little or nothing as to whence it comes, it being collected by the consignor from any small farmer who has pigs for sale.

Pigs, as a rule, in China are allowed the run of any fields that are not bearing a crop, and are fed—or, I should say, feed themselves—on whatever they can find. John Chinaman as farmer is a great believer in human refuse, and I have seen pigs wading through it to make their selection of comestibles. It is also a well-known fact that a pig naturally takes with its food a certain amount of earth or chalky substance, which acts as a corrective to its gluttonous nature, and it does not trouble much about separating the clean from the unclean of whatever it finds.

In Chinese burials, the coffin is stood on the soil, often in the middle of a rice field, and covered with a mound of earth. The frequent torrential rain in many cases washes the greater part of the mound away, leaving the corners exposed and rotting. *I have seen pigs tearing away the sides of a coffin in their search for food.*

I have also seen dead rats devoured by pigs.

There are, I believe, some bred and fed under better conditions, but they are rare, and personally I have yet to make the discovery, although my search has been diligent.

Now to the point. China can produce good pork in every way equal to ours. There is at Hong Kong a dairy farm under European management producing pork that, if placed on the English market, would prove a dangerous competitor to the home, American and Colonial product.

The pigs there are reared under sanitary conditions, and the pork is of exquisite quality, although the climate of Hong Kong is certainly against pig rearing. A pig never perspires, and this alone unfits it for a sultry climate.

My employers bar the native production in its present state, and with them I am agreed.

The next question is, how can we know that Chinese pork imported here is produced under sanitary conditions?

My suggestion is this: that one or even two qualified sanitary inspectors be sent to Hankow, or wherever the productive districts may be, and periodically visit the various farms and piggeries from which supplies are obtained, and report thereon to the Consul. In the event of any breeder not submitting to this inspection, he to be at once barred as a supplier.

Another question will then arise: how are these officials to be paid? I suggest that the shipping companies carrying Chinese pork as cargo impose a surtax on their freightage. Such a tax would be infinitesimal when spread over large consignments.

I then suggest that all pigs, after scalding, be branded at least once "Chinese Produce."

SLAVES OF THE PEN.

A PLEA FOR THE POOR CLERK.

By "Scribe."

It has been said, "Judge not thy neighbour until thou art in his situation," and therefore while it may be, and often is, asserted that the clerk is without pluck and initiative, it can also be said with no less truth that he is hampered by his limitations and the very conditions of his employment.

Those who would accurately estimate his shortcomings should first of all try a year or so, and note the effects of the 9 to 1, 2 to 6, and 6.30-till-finished routine. Of all callings, that of the clerk is most calculated to stultify all feelings of independence

No man can be less assertive than a clerk who wants to keep his job, for the moment he begins to show signs of restlessness he comes up against someone or other who regards him as dangerous. If he is ambitious, he falls foul of the well-placed nominee whose brains are often not of a high order, or a younger generation which, having its bread well buttered, displays no great anxiety to go ahead, and does not view with favour the possessor of such aspirations.

In short, the most successful average clerk is he whose ambition does not soar beyond at most £2 a week, and whose disposition is phlegmatic enough to keep him contented with the glorious vista of possibilities which such a salary offers. And what prospects such a salary does offer to a married man in London! John Bull once said that for a clerk to marry on that amount was to commit social suicide—an aphorism no less true than brilliant. On such an income a man is ever on the brink of the—curbstone, and a very slight push is required to put him in the gutter.

Security of tenure is almost unknown in these days except in institutions, and the clerk whom it is desired to be rid of can be subjected to numerous forms of petty tyranny designed to bring about that result.

With the fear of something to his detriment being inserted in his "character," he puts up with the pin-pricks for a time, until at last, goaded beyond endurance, he lets off steam, with the usual ending.

There is no doubt it is the fact that many an intelligent man has had to submit to the indignity of having his character delineated by one possessing mental attributes far inferior to his own, and with sympathies narrow in the extreme. He can be dubbed "rude" by one who has given endless provocation, or "inefficient" after having been consistently overworked; and as employers are naturally suspicious of a candidate who has something to explain, a man can be actually handicapped from the commencement in his new post.

The sooner every salaried man has the right by law to a prescribed form setting forth his abilities in explicit terms, same to be stamped with an Inland Revenue stamp (the clerk paying for this), the better.

The written record should be a right, and not, as it now often is, a mere concession, to be refused altogether if the employer feels so disposed.

There should be some limitations imposed in regard to hours of labour. To keep men or women glued down to a desk for eight or nine hours a day at one task is a species of refined cruelty, especially as the work requires continued concentration. Municipal and Government standards should be the pattern. At the same time, there should be no playing with work during office hours.

In conclusion, the writer believes that a minimum living wage for men and women would at once raise the standard of efficiency and eliminate the mere "punter."

Box office numbers should be done away with in advertisements. The firm which hides its identity has often not much to be proud of in its methods, and a good firm has everything to gain from the better class of applications which the publication of its name would draw.

It behoves employers to see to it that the under current of discontent which is undoubtedly prevalent does not one day result in an ultimatum being presented.

A clerks' strike would be a very disastrous affair for the whole community, and if ever such an occurrence took place it would bring home to everyone, with a force unsuspected, the fact that the despised scribbler was, after all, to be reckoned with, and that there were some very heavy accounts to be settled.

RYDERS "PP" PENNY PACKET SEEDS.

PENNY PACKET SEEDS.

ALL

"John Bull" Readers

who have gardens are now looking forward to the spring and summer.

At the moment the "question of the day" is Seeds—what to sow and where to obtain them.

Ryders unhesitatingly pronounce their new season's seeds to be the best procurable, whether for flower or kitchen garden, and all who desire to excel in floral magnificence and vegetable abundance should purchase from them.

Ryders pre-eminence as Seed Suppliers is of long standing. They are one of the largest seed firms in the world, and only stock seeds of unrivalled quality and character.

Ryders cater for all, large and small, but the standard of quality is fixed and permanent—the Best.

Their specialised knowledge and experience is behind every Penny Packet, and you are always certain of success when you sow Ryders Seeds.

THE SEASON'S FEATURES.

Ryders draw special attention to the following:—

1. Ryders Dwarf Hybrid Candytufts.
2. " Royal Sweet Sultans, and
3. " Special Sweet Pea Selection.

They invite you to go carefully through their New 1912 Seed Catalogue. All seeds are listed, from "orchids to mustard and cress," and ALL IN PENNY PACKETS.

If you have not received a copy of the 1912 Catalogue, send them a postcard and Ryders will forward you one post free by return.

Ryders would emphasise the fact that they have no agents—Only address:

RYDER & SON,

SEED SPECIALISTS.

HOLYWELL HILL, ST. ALBANS.

BEWARE OF IMITATORS.

FREE RYDERS 1912 SEED CATALOGUE.

Post free to all, Send to-day for a copy.

RYDER & SON, Seed Specialists, Holywell Hill, St. Albans

A SURGICAL OPERATION.

SOME IMPRESSIONS OF THE OPERATING THEATRE.

By William Pollock.

You turn yourself into a cross between a baker and an umpire before you may enter the operating theatre as a visitor. The round white cap which you must put on is for all the world a baker's "polo" with a back-flap; the long white coat is reminiscent of the cricket-field.

There were perhaps a dozen people present besides my friend, himself a skilled surgeon, and myself. Half of them were busy in attending to the operator's wants, the rest engrossed in listening to his quiet remarks and observations.

"I once," my friend told me when I suggested that I should like to see an operation performed, "I once took a man to see one, and he promptly turned green and collapsed on the floor. He afterwards told me that a big operation was one of the few sensations in life which he had never experienced."

I assured my friend that I was "not that sort of man," but I admit that once or twice during my first ten minutes in the theatre, I did feel as if I were going to let him—and myself—down. Despite the whirring of a big electric fan, the atmosphere seemed uncomfortably warm and close, the smell of ether was almost nauseating, and, also, I was excited and imaginative—I had come expecting to be shocked.

But there was little or nothing to see which could shock any ordinary "fit" person; and I very soon forgot my faint feeling in the contemplation of the wondrous skill, the beauty almost, of the work being performed.

Beneath the fierce glare of a dozen concentrated electric globes, on the table—a wide contrivance, which can be instantly adjusted to almost any height, any position, and length—lay the patient, an elderly woman, unconscious.

On one side of the table was the surgeon, a bandage of antiseptic gauze covering his moustache; on the other side, his assistant, a similar bandage over his clean-shaven mouth, and a pair of exquisitely fitting indiarubber gloves, so thin and delicate that the exact shape of his nails was discernible, on his hands.

At the head of the table, sitting on a low stool, and with a silent moving tray-table, littered with bottles, and lint, and at hand a nickel gag for use in case of tongue swallowing, was the anæsthetist. From a small bottle he every two minutes or so shook ether on to the lint pad of the "mask" which rested lightly over the woman's nose and mouth, and now and then he would raise her eyelid and gently touch the eye with the tip of his little finger. Not once was there the slightest blinking, and that, together with the dilatation of the pupil, is the infallible sign of complete unconsciousness.

At the foot of the table stood the nurses, watchful of the operator's every move, and responsive to his every unspoken want; at the head, the students, an eminent French surgeon—on a sort of "busman's holiday" no doubt—my friend and myself.

The case was one of cancer, but the "knife" which one had always associated with surgical operations was astonishingly little seen. A few rapid, incisive strokes, controlled by firm, deft fingers and a strong, flexible wrist, one or two sharp explanatory remarks to the students, a question to the eminent French surgeon—and then it was laid aside for scissors, which, somehow, do not seem half so terrible and unpleasant.

Of blood there was none to speak of. Arteries were picked up by forceps and tied by the assistant almost as quickly as they were severed, for an operation must be "clean"—the flow of blood would not only hinder the work, but also weaken the patient.

And so the operation went on. The cancerous growth was removed, the bleeding finally stopped, and the surgeon turned away, carefully counting his instruments and bits of sponge, and leaving the sewing-up process to his assistant.

I was introduced to him as he washed his hands and arms in an antiseptic solution.

"You came to see the real thing?" he said. "Well, you have; but if you want to see it from the beginning, go outside and watch the next case being got ready."

I did; I saw the commencement, the course—and the victory in another Great Fight.

UNWITNESSED WILLS.

[This is a companion feature to our "Anticipated Epitaphs"—and is just as authentic.]

This is the last Will and Testament —of me—

CHARLES FREDERICK GURNEY MASTERMAN, of 46, Gillingham Street, London, S.W., gentleman.

I HEREBY REVOKE all former testamentary dispositions made by me.

FIRST, I commend my memory to the shareholders and readers of the Cocoa Press, whom I served long and faithfully in the capacity of Literary Editor of the *Daily News*, until the higher interests of the State compelled me to sacrifice personal considerations and take up the arduous duties of Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, at the paltry salary of £1,500 a year.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury a copy of my book "Tennyson as a Religious Leader," assuredly believing that His Grace will derive much spiritual profit from the perusal thereof.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto David Lloyd George, of Criccieth, in the County of Carnarvon, gent., a copy of my book, "The Condition of England," in the fervent hope that a careful perusal of its enthralling pages will spur him on in his noble efforts to create more Government officials and increase the patronage he has so generously extended to Welsh Members of Parliament.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, of Westminster, in the County of London, gent., a copy of my great book, "In Peril of Change," believing that, even if he fails to read its pages, the title alone will deter him from again turning his political coat, as is foreshadowed by some persons.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto the Governors of the British Museum the whitewash brush used by me in the course of my enquiry into the Akbar Reformatory scandals, requesting that the same may be placed under glass in a conspicuous position in the museum, with a descriptive label attached.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto the Governors of the British Museum the small residue of whitewash that remained in the pail at the conclusion of my enquiry into the Akbar Reformatory scandals, requesting that the same may be used to improve the appearance of the bust of the Emperor Nero.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children the sum of ten pounds, to form the nucleus of a fund to be devoted especially to work on behalf of reformatory inmates.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Parliamentary electors of South-West Bethnal Green, who have enjoyed the honour of being represented by me in the House of Commons, the sum of two hundred pounds, for the purpose of erecting a statue to my memory in a conspicuous spot in the constituency, stipulating that the base of the said statue shall bear the following inscription:—

"Spare the rod, the birch, and the bucket of cold water, and spoil the child."

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the National Liberal Club the original of the beautiful picture drawn by E. T. Reed, for *Punch*, depicting me as a saint in a stained-glass window requesting that the same may be hung in a conspicuous position in the entrance hall.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH my sanctimonious expression to Lord Haldane, of Cloan, who looks too jolly for a Radical.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH the residue of my property to the Plasterers' Trade Union on condition that no less than one hundred members of the said Union follow my body to the grave, each carrying some emblem of his trade, to wit, a pail, a whitewash brush, or a trowel.

IN WITNESS whereof I have hereunto set my hand.

"BRAININE"
FOR NERVES AND WORRY.
All Chemists, 1s. 1½d.

Know more than your Employer

—and your employer will want to know more about you.

How you are to get to know.

SUCH is the recipe for success given by the head of a well-known business house the other day.

"As an employer myself," he continued, "I know how hard it is to find men who can be trusted with positions calling for initiative and responsibility. It is easy enough to get clerks; book-keepers who are just book-keepers ask me for situations every day; but the man who knows what to do if an emergency arises outside his own department can always be sure of a good salary; and I, for one, am always glad to hear from him."

This remarkable statement is echoed on all sides by our leading business men, and in such a state of affairs anything that can help one to acquire this knowledge must be very valuable to the man who means to get on. It is useless to expect to pick it up in the ordinary course of your work. Modern conditions make too much of a specialist, and it is becoming harder every day for a man to widen his businesss knowledge.

And yet it *must* be done if you mean to succeed; for what, after all, do you really know about business?

What Do You Know About Business?

For instance, do you understand book-keeping thoroughly? Could you draw up a balance-sheet, a profit and loss account, &c., &c.? Then what do you know about the law as it affects your own particular business, and if you do know something about law, do you know anything at all about manufacturing or distribution? Do you know anything about the formation or management of a limited liability company? Or about that great and growing force, advertising?

The Only Way to Succeed.

Probably you do not know more than one of these subjects, and yet if you wish to be a big success it is imperative you should know them all—or know where to get complete and authoritative information about them.

What then are you to do? You must get the "Business Encyclopædia."

The "Business Encyclopædia" is the only work that gives full and detailed information on all the problems that confront the business man during his work. Whatever line of business you are in, whatever position you occupy in it, this work can prove invaluable to you if you will use it right. If you want to know about any point in book-keeping, the "Business Encyclopædia" will tell you. If you want to know about drawing up a balance-sheet, or a profit and loss account, you will find it here. If you want to know the law as it affects your own particular calling, if you want to know anything about manufacturing, if you want to learn all about loose leaf and card index systems, you can learn it here. You can learn, in fact, of any and every subject connected with business. Will you risk losing this opportunity of hearing about such a valuable work without any cost?

You cannot do without it, whether you are an ambitious young man on the threshold of your commercial life or a mature business man who dreads that he may be crowded out of the business fight owing to the present-day stress of competition. If you are young the use of the "Business Encyclopædia" makes you proficient in

The Knowledge that is Your Stock-in-Trade.

If you are older, its use will give you the confidence, founded on sound information, to enable you to act on your own business ideas.

It contains hundreds of business articles written by the most successful business men of the day. Amongst these are: Richard Burbidge (Managing Director Harrods' Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), John Lawrie (Managing Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridges, Ltd)., Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), &c., &c.

A Position at £200 a Year.

The "Business Encyclopædia," moreover, has one great and immediate advantage. Its possession entitles you to compete without entrance fee in the forthcoming Business Examination, in which are offered twelve substantial prizes, including a situation at £200 a year with the Caxton Publishing Company, or £100 in cash. That advantage alone is worth many times the cost of the work.

Two Opinions.

Messrs. J. S. FRY and SONS, Ltd., Bristol, write:—

"The volumes have already proved of great use to us, and we would not be without them on any account. We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work."

A Cashier's Opinion.

Mr. L. C. Horsley, Cashier, Marlborough Road, Ipswich: "I find it of the greatest assistance to me in my work as cashier to one of the largest manufacturing companies in East Anglia. I am sorry there were not such valuable sources of information years ago. It would have saved me hours of work."

A FREE BOOK.

The publishers have issued a handsomely illustrated book, which will be sent to you POST FREE. It gives the names of the articles written above, and it tells you all about the "Business Encyclopædia," and how it can be obtained for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance to be paid by small monthly payments.

To the Caxton Publishing Co., Ltd.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, a copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia."

NAME .....
(Send this Form or a postcard).
ADDRESS .....
.....

MORE WHIPS FOR PARTY HACKS.

SOME VALENTINES FOR THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

By Richard Morton.

We are able to state, on reliable authority, that the following communications to their followers have not been written by the respective Party leaders whose names are attached thereto:—

10, *Downing Street, S.W.*

Sir,—Kindly make a note in your diary that Parliament will reassemble on Wednesday, the 14th (this month, not next), and I hope to see you in your place.

Whether I see you or not, you must be there, for some of us will be introducing important measures with which you may, or may not, be in sympathy, but for which, of course, I rely upon your vote,

You need not trouble to get any speeches ready, as we shall not require you to speak much. There are plenty of us quite ready to do the talking; all we want you to do is vote. You will hear the bell ring, and you will go into the Government lobby every time. Information respecting what you have voted for will be supplied afterwards, if required.

Your faithful servant,
H. H. Asquith.

Pembroke Lodge, Kensington.

Ma Bonnie Laddie,—The curtain gaes up on Valentine's Day, and I need you help me pull the strings. There's lot of business to the fore the noo, and we maun hae a finger in the haggis.

I didna much expect tae be electit chief of our clan, but there it is. I rely on you to gie me your loyal support and to do as I bid ye. Dinna ye fash yersel, but keep your eye on me, and we'll be all richt.

Your ain chiel,
A. Bonar Law.

India Office,
Whitehall, S.W.

My Lord,—I venture to express the hope that your lordship will be able to be in your lordship's place in readiness for the Address.

Your lordship knows there are not many of us, so it behoves your lordship to make as much of your lordship's self as possible. Spread yourself a bit, and try to look like a lot. We are few, but we are chosen.

I am, my lord, your lordship's faithful servant,
Crewe.

Bowood.

My Lord,—If you can spare the time, run up and give us a hand. There's nothing for us to worry about just yet, but I should like to see you in your place if you have nothing better to do. When there's anything really spesh. I will send a wire.

Hope the going is good in your parts,
Your much obliged,
Lansdowne.

3, *Lincoln's Inn Fields.*

Dear Friend and Comrade,—On the eve of an urgent and important juncture in Parliamentary affairs I take up my pen to remind you that I hope to see you on Wednesday, and trust you will occupy your usual place. I fancy I can hear you saying, "Trust me for that!"

I expect from you prompt and perfect obedience during the coming Session. You have made me your Leader, and I intend to lead, whither is *my* business.

Yours, for the good of the cause,
J. Ramsay Macdonald.

18, *Wynnstay Gardens, S.W.*

Dear Bhoy,—It's me that's after asking you to be sure to turn up on Wednesday. There's sure to be a shindy soon, so keep your lungs aired and your powder dry.

It's now or never for us, and it's got to be now, and never never if I know it. Anybody treading on the tail of our coat is hereby warned off the premises. Home Rule for ever!

Yours hilariously,
John E. Redmond.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NOT CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

By Our Own Parliamentary Reporter.

Question 1: To ask Mr. Lloyd George, whether he or any of his colleagues or friends are personally related to or acquainted with any of the officials who have been appointed to fat jobs under the Old Age Pension Act, the Labour Exchanges Act, and the Insurance Act; and if so whether they are fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, nephews, cousins, old friends or friends of old friends.

Answer: Not 'arf!

Supplementary: Arising out of that answer, may I ask why the members of the Opposition are so strongly silent upon the subject?

Answer: What ho!

Question 2: To ask Mr. Lloyd George, whether it is true that the former's great speech on Liberal finance was thought out in a sumptuous Rivieran villa lent by the owner of certain well-known newspapers.

Answer: The answer is in the affirmative. It is only fair to add, however that the hospitality referred to was in the nature of a return for favours received, and a bid for favours to come.

Supplementary: Will the right hon. gentleman tell the House why the Attorney-General was chosen as his holiday companion?

Answer: I *don't* think!

Question 3: To ask Mr. Lloyd George, whether it is true that Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was among his first callers on his recent return to England; if so, what was the nature and import of their conversation, and whether the Socialist leader is about to give to official Liberalism what has been paid for by Labour?

Answer: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. With regard to the second part of the question, I must ask the hon. Member to wait and see!

Supplementary: May I ask if during the discussion the Labour Party's attitude on the Osborne judgment cropped up?

Answer (*sotto voice*): Ha! ha!

Question 4: To ask Mr. Lloyd George, whether he evolved the Insurance Act from his own inner consciousness, and, if not, what was the source of his inspiration?

Answer: It occurred to me all of a sudden, when the Trade Unionists began to get out of hand.

Question 5: To ask Mr. Lloyd George, whether a date has been fixed for his inevitable elevation to the Premiership?

Answer: I shall be glad if the hon. Member will repeat the question on this day six months.

(Mr. Churchill was understood to say something, but his remarks were not audible in the Press Gallery.)

"SLAVES OF THE ROAD."

"PROPER" STORIES TOLD BY "COMMERCIALS."

We have had pleasure in awarding a consolation prize of half-a-guinea to the sender of the following story:

"SOUP."

At supper, the commercial—despite much pressing—declined soup. He retired to his room and was soon asleep.

Now it so happened that the previous occupant had been ordered tube-feeding, and it fell to the lot of the night porter to warm the liquid and administer it about 3 a.m. The invalid had been removed to a hospital that day but, by an oversight, the porter had not been informed. Finding whom he took to be his patient on his back, the porter inserted a tube, despite the struggles of his half-awake victim poured the contents of a jug down it, and retired.

Next morning our commercial rose early, breakfasted, paid his bill and left without mentioning his extra meal.

That evening as he was waiting for a train a friend accosted him. "Hello, Jack! Going? I have just landed; I'm here for three days. I am going to stay at the ——Hotel." "Oh! are you?" he replied. "Well, look here, old chap, I'll give you a tip. I stayed there last night. If they ask you to have soup, have it—don't forget, *have* it. If you don't, they'll come up in the middle of the night and ram it down your blooming neck!"

'No Animal is so Unhealthy as Man.'

These are the words of a great living physician, who has spent his life in repairing the ravages of disease.

They are terribly true.

Man, in spite of his superior intelligence which should enable him to avoid the perils which threaten Perfect Health, is the least healthy of living creatures.

The explanation of this is simple. Man, while he has gained in intellect and reason, has lost the primitive instinct which enables the lower creatures to defend themselves.

He has his reason, truly—but, unhappily, he, too often, refuses to be guided by it.

Nineteen-twentieths of the disease in this land is due to folly, ignorance, or carelessness.

Ignorance is the greatest of all enemies to Good Health. Thousands of people to-day endure tortures of ill-health; thousands more lead a wretched half-existence—neither ill enough to be in bed nor well enough to do their work and be happy, simply because *they do not know what is the matter with them*, no matter how highly educated they may be.

Now nearly all disease is due to poisoned blood. Blood-poisons in the tissues of the bowels result in Constipation; in the tissues of the stomach they cause Indigestion; in the muscles, Rheumatism, and so forth.

If you would be well *you must get these Blood Poisons out of your system.*

This you can do if you will.

You can entirely get rid of these Poisons. You can regain Perfect Health, and so cleanse your body that this positively thrills with the fulness of life pervading it.

WHAT IS HEALTH?

Again, let the famous physician speak and give us his definition:—

"Roughly speaking, when we are easy or at ease, we are in health, and when we are uneasy or dis-easy we are diseased."

In that sense are you diseased. Do you suffer any bodily discomfort?

Do you suffer from Headache, Indigestion, Constipation, Rheumatism or kindred complaint? If so, the cause is simply Poison in your blood, the poison which you must now take some little pains to remove.

It has been proved that the safest, surest and most effective way of getting rid of these Blood Poisons, and so driving Indigestion, Rheumatism, and the other complaints named out of the system is to take a definite course of Holloway's Pills.

These famous Pills are purely vegetable and contain herbal properties of a highly anti-toxic nature. They are, in fact, a certain antidote to the poisons which infect the blood of human beings and cause nearly all diseases.

For many complaints Holloway's Pills and Ointment should be used in conjunction, and every sufferer is strongly advised to do so, but in some cases the Pills may be used alone.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment, with full printed directions for use, are sold by all chemists and medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per box or pot.

Manufactured only by Thomas Holloway, 113, Southwark Street, London, S.E., where advice may be obtained gratis, daily (Saturday excepted), between 12 and 4, or by post.

Indigestion, Liver Troubles, Constipation, Sick Headache, and all complaints of Rheumatic or Gouty origin, are being cured every day by these Remedies.

If you are a sufferer take a dose of Holloway's Pills every night before retiring to rest. Do this for a week, and at the end of that period you will feel yourself a new man or woman.

It is astonishing how the sense of vitality and the joy of living leap up within one as soon as the blood-poisons begin to be drawn out of the system.

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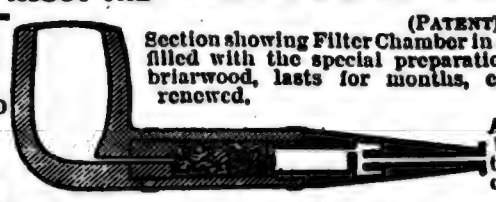

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Section showing Filter Chamber in stem filled with the special preparation of briarwood, lasts for months, easily renewed.

A real boon to all cigarette smokers.

The smoke is filtered and purified. No nicotine. No spitting. No burning sensation. No smoker's throat. No bad nerves. The smoker obtains a BETTER ENJOYMENT OF THE TOBACCO. It is unquestionably the best Pipe in the market. Smokers are UNANIMOUS in its praise. A Physician writes: "I am impressed immensely with the excellent qualities of your Pipe." A Sportsman says: "In the purchase of your Pipe I have indeed backed a winner." From William Owen, Esq., Man. Director of Wm. Owen, Ltd., Westbourne Grove, W.: "I think very highly of your patent Pipe." From E. Smith, Esq., J.P., ex Deputy-Chairman L.C.C.: "Your patent Pipe is in every way quite successful. It only wants to be known and tried to be surely used by Pipe Smokers." From W. Pendennis, Esq., J.P., C.C.: "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Pipe I bought from you is the sweetest and coolest I have ever used." (HUNDREDS OF TESTIMONIALS.)

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OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER,—Good luck to you in the coming session. You have a difficult team to drive and I expect some of them will soon be kicking over the traces. Like Balfour, I know you are becoming tired of the game. A shrewd observer of the signs of the time, you discern the dawn of a new spirit in the land; you see proof on every hand of the approaching disintegration of the Party system; and it may well be that, rich in years and honours, you will ere long leave the shaping of the new order to other hands. You will have well earned repose. Few know the sterling service you have given during the death throes of the old *régime*. Loyal to your King, your country and your conscience, you have imbued with dignity a post which you have filled with distinction.

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. A. Bonar Law.

DEAR MR. LAW,—And good luck to you. Never had statesman such an opportunity. It will be entirely your own fault if you do not become the first Prime Minister in a Business Government. Don't hesitate to "shed" the dullards—shave the "whiskers" off; don't descend to Party clap-trap, however loudly the fellows behind you yell for it. Just make it clear that the House of Commons is not a Mission Hall, but the National Chamber of Public Affairs. Don't call a spade an agricultural implement—call it, rather, a blessed shovel—*and get on with the work*. I shall keep my eye on you. JOHN BULL.

To John Redmond, Esq.

DEAR MR. REDMOND,—And I wish you luck, also. Yours was the first speech I heard in the House of Commons which really impressed me—in the first days of the Parliament of 1906; and I have listened to you, respected you, and admired you ever since. You are one of the few sincere men in Parliament, but, unlike the others, you never speak unless you have something to say. And you always say it well.

Of the merits of the Home Rule Bill I cannot at present speak. In principle, I have always been in favour of a big effort to heal the wound which has so long tortured the very heart of our Empire. But the problem is a big one, and, like a great mountain, it gets bigger the nearer you approach it. Still, I do not believe a solution to be beyond the capacity of sound statesmanship. Your greatest difficulty, as I ventured to tell you in the House, will prove to be that which you hailed as your salvation—that very silly Parliament Act. By the time your Bill has run the gauntlet of three sessions—well, you will have to negotiate with the Conservatives! That is, assuming the present Party system endures another three years. With a Business Government, of course, the thing will be easy. One tip—keep your boys in hand, and let the regular Opposition have the fun to themselves.

JOHN BULL.

To Citizen Ramsay Macdonald, M.P.

COMRADE,—As for you—well, I know you will be a good boy and help the Government all you can; and then when Mr. Lloyd George rearranges the Cabinet we may have a Minister of Labour (salary, £5,000)—with a little Scotch school teacher at its head. Splendid, isn't it?

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. S. Coley, The Golden Cross, Harvington, near Kidderminster.

DEAR SIR,—One of the greatest and one of the truest legal maxims is *Ignorantia legis neminem excusat*, or in the vulgate: "If you don't know the law—so much the worse for you." As I understand the dreadful affair, you had a dividend-club dinner; the policeman on the beat looked in after it was all over; remained talking in the doorway while the crockery was being cleared away; had nothing to drink; was instantly dismissed the force; you were charged before the local magistrates with "harbouring the policeman while in the execution of his duty"; mulct in costs, and the police were congratulated on their stupendous acumen and justifiable zeal in bringing you to the bar of justice. In future you must be more careful. For instance, you know what happens to a publican who, when the lights are low, surreptitiously or otherwise gives half a pint to a policeman who happens to be passing? If not, get to know as soon as possible.

JOHN BULL.

To Bertrand Stewart, Esq., Leipzig, Germany.

DEAR BERTRAND,—Just a line or two before you finally vanish into one of the German fortresses. Though I dare-say you did not mean anything in particular by the enquiries you requested the rascal Arsene Verrue to make as to the dispositions of the German Navy when you were over in that country, it is clear he got you into an awful mess with the intent of making what he could out of you by betraying you to the German authorities. For the time being Germany seems espionage-mad. You knew the risks you ran, a moment's thought would have convinced you that this gaol-bird could not possibly get you any of the information you are alleged to have wanted, and that any knowledge he could obtain would be of no value whatever. On the supposition that your protestation of innocence is true (and I do not doubt it for a moment) I can understand that—not speaking German, and with this man as your interpreter—you did ask him various questions in the course of conversation, and that the greater the interest with which you discussed them, the keener would be his efforts, and the more elaborate his plans, to transform your innocent curiosity to the character of espionage. In a sentence, my dear Bertrand, you were being betrayed while you were being trapped.

I should really have thought you would have known that it is utterly unsafe for a foreigner, more especially a British or French tourist or officer, to express the smallest curiosity in public as to the German Army or Navy. The one thing I do not understand, my dear Bertrand, is how you fell across this precious villain, and how you, a trained solicitor, came to give him your confidence. This man had been living by his crimes and his wits since 1887 in France, Belgium, Holland, England, and Germany; and what speaks more for your folly than for your guilt is that he was an entire stranger to you. One lifts up one's hands in astonishment that so casual an acquaintanceship should precipitate in so short a time so complete a disaster. Talk of the innocent abroad—and you a solicitor, too!

Still, that does not justify either the method of your trial or the ferocity of your sentence. If you had been proved to be a paid spy your treatment could not have been worse. As you will see, I am directing the attention of the Government to your case, and who knows but that it may be the means of opening the eyes of your country to the true state of things. At any rate, it should serve this good if no other, my dear Bertrand: it drives home the much-needed warning that the Briton who goes into Germany asking questions about German ships and German soldiers is not only seeking trouble, but will not be long before he gets it. Neither should Germany if I had my way. JOHN BULL.

To F. A. Cunnack, Esq., Helston, Cornwall.

YOUR WORSHIP,—I have read with a great deal of interest the distressing case of Lillie Stephens, of Breage, who was recently brought before you on a charge of being in the street in a condition of unstable equilibrium and boisterous conviviality. The evidence was unassailable, the guilt was undenied, and Lillie threw herself on the mercy of the Court because, in the words of the veracious reporter of your worship's Court, "she was a single woman with five children, one of which she was still nursing." That, Mr. Mayor, was an appeal which I venture to say would have aroused pity in the stoniest heart; and having let her off at the comparatively cheap rate of 5s. and 6s. costs, you advised her to turn over a new leaf and become teetotal; which was very nice of you. It is true I do not perceive how turning teetotal will—but pray forgive my pursuing so pathetic a topic. JOHN BULL.

To Pett Ridge, Esq., Authors' Club, London.

MY DEAR PETT,—There is something in your suggestion that "if the hard-up women of London could be taught to cook, the drink problem in regard to men would almost disappear." The iniquitous traffic in indigestion undoubtedly drives thousands of men to drink, and I hope yet to see the day when bad cooking will be a ground for divorce. Even you would probably be surprised to learn the number of husbands who would rather get drunk than eat their wives' pie and pudding, to say nothing of their mutton hash. Do not let *Mary* see this letter!

JOHN BULL.

"A PLACE IN THE SUN!"

AND *STILL* HE IS NOT HAPPY!

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By "Verax."

The reduction in the Bank Rate to 3½ per cent. has not yet brought about a revival of business, nor has it put down rates in the open market to any extent, and as long as the revenue collections are in progress much lower rates cannot be looked for. But there have been other obstacles to an improvements; first and foremost, forced sales in various markets, and especially in *South Africans* in connection with French and Belgian failures or difficulties. *Home Rails* are chiefly suffering from a recrudescence of fears anent the threatened strike of coal miners, and now that the dividends have been declared it is easy to see that working costs, especially as regards labour and coal, dictated a conservative policy. The *General Omnibus* deal has received the requisite majority, and these and other specialities are now in calmer waters. *Inkram Cotton Estates* have advanced to 1s. 7½d., with good business doing. Until the end of March brings cheap and abundant money, therefore, we can hardly look for active or advancing markets, but there are plenty of bargains to be picked up.

Some Recent New Issues—Various Disappointments of Promoters.

I assume that now the Bank Rate has been reduced to 3½ per cent. promoters will be able to bring out more new prospectuses, but they have certainly been disappointed in several of their creations, which seems to be partly due to the fact that investors do not apply so freely when the prospectuses are advertised, but wait until they can buy shares at a discount in the market. That, of course, they were able to do, for instance, with *Canadian Northern Ontario*, the underwriters of which were left with 90 per cent., and which on December 21 were quoted 1¼ to 1 discount. It has taken a lot of time to place some of this stock, and it is even now quoted 1⅜ to ½ discount on the initial price of 93, but then it was a very huge issue of seven millions brought out very injudiciously. The following table deals with recent issues, and it will be seen that while *Argentine Railway*, etc., debentures have been well received, standing at substantial premiums, *Brazilian* have weakened, and the *Chilian Government* issue has been badly received:—

	Issue Price.	Present Price.
Anglo-Argen. Trams 5 p.c. Deb.	97½ ..	3¼—4 pm.
Argentine N.E. Railway "C" Debs. ..	85 ..	3¼—½ pm.
Argentine Tobacco £1 Pref.	1 ..	4-9—5-9 pm.
" " Debs	100 ..	4¼—5¼ pm.
Assoc. Cement 2nd Debs.	91 ..	1¼—1¼ dis.
Bahia Blanca and N.W. 4½ p.c. Deb. ..	98½ ..	Par—¼ pm.
Brazil 4 per cent.	83½ ..	1¼—¼ dis.
Buenos Ayres Gt. Southern. Shs. ..	10 ..	17s.—18s. pm.
Canada N. Ontario 3½ p.c.	93 ..	1¼—¼ dis.
Central Railway of Canada 5 p.c. ..	95 ..	95—½
Chilian 5 per cent.	98½ ..	¼—½ dis.
Chilian Northern Railway 5 per cent. ..	93 ..	1¼—¾ pm.
Cuban Ports. 5 per cent. Debs.	97½ ..	1¼—¼ dis.
Marconi Ordinary	2 ..	2 1-16—3-16pm.
Mond. Nickel Debs...	100 ..	4¼—5¼ pm.
Peru 5½ per cents.	98½ ..	¼ dis.—par.
Rio Janeiro 4½ per cent.	92½ ..	¼—⅛ dis.
Russian Railways 4½ per cent.	97½ ..	¼ dis.—¼ pm.
San Paul Improvements Bonds	58½ ..	Par—1 pm.
Southern Nigeria 4 per cent.	99½ ..	5-16—7-16 pm.
Wisconsin Central 4 p.c. 1st Mortgage Debs. ..	99 9-16 ..	2¼—1¼ dis.

Wisconsin Central, one of the latest issues, were also badly received; underwriters have had to take 95 per cent., while the quotation has fallen to 2 discount. It is upon the whole a good mortgage bond, but the price is considered rather high under present circumstances. *Associated Cement Second Debentures* stand at 1¼-⅜ dis., and were badly taken up, the underwriters having been landed with something like 50 per cent. *Brazilian Fours* have fallen since the issue to 1⅜-1½ dis., while *Rio Janeiro 4½ per Cents.* have largely been left with the underwriters, with the result that there is a discount of ⅝-¾ on these. The *Peruvian Loan* had also to be taken up in part by the underwriters, and the reason why the *Russian Railway 4½ per Cent. stock* is at a slight discount is probably that a big Russian railway loan is about to be issued in London, Paris and Berlin simultaneously. This accounts for temporary weakness of other Russian stocks. At all events, money is not very plentiful yet, and will not be so until we get to the end of March, so that only sound issues at tempting prices are likely to be taken up by investors, and the latter have really been justified in several instances in waiting until the issue has been made, so as to buy at a discount from disconsolate underwriters. I propose in the future to dissect very closely the new issues that may come forward.

More Liquidation in South African Mines—A Final Rally—Record Rand Gold Output for January—Rhodesians Oversold—Diamond Proprietary—Nigerian Tins Active.

There has been renewed liquidation in *South African Gold Mines* in connection with some failures and financial difficulties in Paris and Antwerp, and prices have given way all round. The fact that the *Cons. Goldfields'* interim dividend is only 7½ per cent., against 10 per cent. a year ago, certainly does not account for the general *malaise*, which discourages investors from taking advantage of the present low prices. Nor does the *Transvaal Gold output* for January of 737,000 ozs., value £3,130,830, against 709,906 ozs., value £3,015,499 for December, and representing a new high record, support all the "Bear" talk. There is, moreover, a considerable increase in the native labour supply, now amounting to 201,375, and the increase in the "boys" in the gold mines of 5,764 is really very favourable. Unfortunately a late correction is to the effect that 19,764 ounces out of the increase of 27,152 ounces consists of gold reserves declared. *Rhodesians* have declined on Bear sales, in the face of favourable developments on a number of mines. Nigerian Tin Mines have at times been very active, especially *Champion Tin*, *Lucky Chance*, and *Rayfield Syndicate*. *Naraguta Extended*, to which I drew attention the other day, have advanced to 1⅛-¼ on a cable stating that January shipments amounted to 17 tons of 75 per cent. tin, while from June next monthly shipments will average at least 45 tons. This is a very promising mine. There is a good deal of talk about the *Ropps* mine, but as long as very meagre particulars only are vouchsafed I cannot advise purchase. Weakness in the higher-priced diamond shares on Paris sales has dominated the diamond market. *Diamond Proprietary* have, however, been a notably firm feature at 6s. 6d., upon the more general recognition of the great possibilities which exist for the company in the event of the diamond pipe, from which the valuable alluvial deposits have originated, being uncarthed on the property. To my mind there is no more promising speculation in the mining markets. *Northern Ontario Exploration* advanced to ⅜ buyers on the rich strike at Camp No. 1, which I mentioned last week.

Strong Undercurrent in Oil Shares—Egyptian Oil Production—Maikops Firm—The Trinidad Oilfield.

The undertone of the Oil Share market continues good, although here and there the Continental liquidation already referred to caused moderate declines. After the settlement a sharp rally may be expected. *Shell Transports* are steady at 86s. 9d., *Spies* at 22s., while Mexican Eagles are easier on the revolutionary rumours. There is no fresh news from the *Maikop Oilfield*, but the two large producers—the *Black Sea Oilfields* and *Maikop Victory*—still report increasing outputs. The Egyptian group is keeping firm, especially *Red Sea Oilfields*, which are expected to have an early rise. It is understood that a tank steamer which has been lying off Gemsah has actually left for the refineries with a cargo of 6,000 tons of oil, and an official statement concerning the production of the Gemsah wells is expected almost immediately. According to advices from Alexandria, the Khedive, with the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works, is about to visit the oilfields, and especially Gazal-el-Zeit, where some of the best producing wells are located. According to reports of experts, the Gemsah oil has a high market value on account of the large percentage of light products, such light oil being very scarce in other fields. I said a word the other day concerning the great future of the oilfield in the *Island of Trinidad*, and I am fully confirmed in this view. From the Imperial point of view it is one of the most important sources of oil supply, especially as with the opening of the Panama Canal, steamers, of which there will undoubtedly by that time be many propelled by oil fuel, should find it convenient for taking in further oil stores. The oilfield covers at least 500 square miles, and the oil is of excellent quality. Some important developments are imminent, of which more anon.

Liquidation of Rubbers Renewed—Reflections on the Chersonese Report.

Liquidation has been renewed in the leading rubber shares, chiefly on Continental account, but the market is developing greater absorbing power, and prices are rallying. *Linggis* to 35s. 9d., *Vallambrosa* to 25s. 9d., and *Anglo-Malay* to 17s. *Consolidated Malay* have declined to 16s. 6d., there being some selling of the old shares for the purpose of buying the new. *Malaccas* have shown exceptional strength throughout, and are up at 13. It now transpires that this Company has entered into an agreement with the *United States Rubber Company* of an important character. In connection therewith, it is interesting to note that the rubber-consuming industry in the States is in a booming condition, and that the present year is likely to witness a further expansion in the exports of American motor cars, including tyres, the value of which exports during 1911 exceeded £4,000,000 sterling. This

circumstance is also of good augury as regards the outlook for rubber here. I wonder how many people watching the movements in Panama Rubber and Timber shares realise that the properties are the same as were owned by the late Henriquez and Henriquez South Companies. The *Chersonese* directors' report for the past year has created an unfavourable impression, owing to the very high working costs. It is pointed out in the market that the first costs, which include the expenditure on conditioning work, are always high, and that subsequently the cost of maintenance should fall to a reasonable level. The older companies are already carrying out the necessary maintenance work at a cost of less than 1s. per lb., and a still further reduction upon this figure is anticipated. It is undoubtedly the fact, however, that many of the newer estates required a much larger expenditure upon cleaning, weeding, etc., than had been anticipated. A nice point arises in connection therewith—viz., whether the vendors could not be compelled to bear the whole or greater portion of this extra expenditure!

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX

(1) *Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor,* JOHN BULL, *2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) *Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.*

(3) *Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.*

(4) *In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.*

(5) *If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.*

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

£100 INVESTMENT.—P. T. O.—Much must, of course, depend upon the rate of yield you require. If you are content with about 3½ per cent. per annum on a gilt-edged security, the new Western Australian 3½ per cent. Loan will just answer your purpose. If you require 4½ per cent. or thereabouts, you can get this, and more, in leading South African Bonds. One of the cheapest of the kind is the Chilian 5 per cent. Loan of 1911, at 98½, thus yielding £5 2s. 3d. per cent. per annum.

CHILLAGOES.—JOSEPH H. J.—The progress of this Company has been temporarily hindered, firstly, by a destructive fire, and secondly by labour trouble. The former has been practically overcome, and the latter should soon be settled. You will, therefore, be well advised to retain your shares for an improvement.

SOFIA MONEY LOTTERY.—B. O. C. (Swansea).—(1) Yes, presumably, but the so-called bankers who serve as intermediaries are usually not to be trusted. Besides, lotteries are illegal in this country.

BOND QUESTION.—J. J. B. (Ontario).—I do not advise going in for this extraordinary combination. You had far better buy some of those bonds which are sound and promising. By the combinations you place yourself in the hands of people who take advantage of you.

SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.—FESTINA LENTE.—You are quite right to distrust these proposals. Of course the people are not bankers, but merely touts. (1) Leave it alone. (2) This has been done.

TIN SHARES.—A. T. (Nelson).—It is a pity that you cannot keep these shares, which are a very good investment. You cannot sell them until the special settlement has taken place, which will probably be in about a month's time.

QUICK PROFIT.—MRS. W. (Ipsden).—You cannot make a quick profit in a *safe* investment. If this were so easy, speculation in stocks and shares would be very profitable. You say yourself you cannot afford to lose anything, and in any case you would have to put your money down. You might buy some of the Diamond Proprietary shares, mentioned in my article, which are likely to go higher, but you will quite understand that this is a speculation.

STOLEN TYPEWRITER.—KILNSLEY.—If you trust such people you must expect to lose money. You ought never to have parted with the machine. (1 and 2) It would be useless to appeal. (3) The best thing is to pay the carriage and get the machine back. (4) No, as he is a minor.

WELLINGTON HOUSE, LIMITED.—WELLINGTON.—It is certainly very discourteous on the part of the secretary of the Company not to answer your letters. Should this meets his eye, I trust it will remind him of his duties to the Company's shareholders.

WEST AFRICAN CONCERN.—E. G. S.—It would, in my mind, be a case of throwing good money after bad by taking up these shares.

BRITISH RUSSIAN CORPORATION.—BERTIE.—I must confess my ignorance of this concern, but would not advise a purchase of the shares, if only because there is no market for the same.

HAYES REYNOLDS UNIVERSAL PRINT CO.—TEXTILE.—This is another concern which blushes unseen, and the purchase of whose shares I cannot advise under the circumstances.

G. BEER, LIMITED.—OSIRIS.—Your grievance with regard to unduly large payments made to the managers and directors of this Company appears to be well justified, but the only way to get it remedied is for the ordinary shareholders, who were not getting any dividend at all, to band themselves together and demand a reduction of these payments. The shareholders might also demand to have details of the long outstanding debts, and why some of these have not been recoverable.

RAILWAY WAGGON SHARES.—ARCHYLE.—Yes, they are a sound industrial holding, but never put all your eggs into one basket.

RUBBERS.—J. M. E.—Do not sell either of these rubber shares at a sacrifice, but as regards further purchases, it would be advisable to stick to the sound shares, in which there is a free market. Such is not the case with the other shares mentioned. I hear good accounts, by the way, of Yam Seng.

RAILWAY DEBS.—£250 INVESTMENT.—Both Canadian Northern Pacific Railway 4 per cent. debentures, guaranteed by the British Columbia, and Leopoldina Terminal first debentures, guaranteed by the Leopoldina Railway Company, are excellent investments. If I had to make a choice of the two I should take the former, in view of their higher status.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—READER OF "J. B."—I certainly think that the circulars of M. E. Aylmer and Co., hailing from 63, High Holborn, London, W.C., investment brokers and stock and share dealers, had best go into the waste paper basket. If these people, located so far away from the Stock Exchange, can make money so easily, why do they not make it for themselves instead of wishing to share it with other people?

"FREEHOLD INVESTMENT."—JONES.—I can only repeat what was stated in the article in question. Same reply to VERITAS.—Have nothing to do with it.

LOAN SOCIETY.—REDCAR.—With regard to my reply in the issue of January 27th, in which I stated that there was no society or trust fund from which a young man in business could get a loan at a reasonable rate of interest, a correspondent writes that so far as London is concerned this is an error, as Armway's Trust, order made by Charity Commissioners 1856, advances £50 to £200 for three years at 3 per cent.; but this only refers to London, while my inquiry from the country. If the correspondent referred to would, however, like to try his luck, I will give him the address on hearing from him.

SUNDRY INVESTMENTS.—DEVONIA (Vancouver, B.C.).—I think you have been very badly treated by those who recommended you to buy New Wheal Eliza Consols, Limited, Universal Motor Cab Company shares, or Gold Coast Consolidated Lands. I do not think there is a chance of making money out of these, least of all out of the last-mentioned.

EXCHANGE OF INVESTMENTS.—SAN TOY.—Naturally, members of the London Stock Exchange who do not know you will require a reference before they deal for you. The tin shares have not yet got a special settlement. That is expected in about a month's time, and you cannot sell the shares and obtain the amount before the settlement. There is no market for the other shares. I think you will have to wait.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

NATIONAL STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE.—A. R. (Bethnal Green).—This is not a fire office. Why don't you insure in the Royal, Royal Exchange, or some of the other old-established offices?

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL.—L. and M. (Devonport).—This policy is apparently illegal. If you can prove fraud you can recover. CHINNON (High Wycombe).—The policy is illegal. Tell your father, and arrange with the Company, or insist on repayment of premiums.

ROYAL LONDON FRIENDLY.—S. H. P.—We cannot undertake the matter. You should employ a solicitor. The policies are returned. E. A. T. (Woking).—Apparently some agent must have promised you a free policy after five years, but you seem to have no claim to this. Policy is returned.

ANNUITY AT 58.—P. D.—Royal, North British and Mercantile, Sun Life, or Scottish Widows Fund should suit. Write for terms and select the most advantageous.

COMMERCIAL INSURANCE.—A. H. (Liverpool).—All these offices are young, No. 3 the best, No. 1 weak, No. 2 fair.

LAW UNION AND ROCK.—HUGO.—Write direct to the Company, 126, Chancery Lane, London.

INSURANCE FOR £100.—ABBEY.—Not worth while for such an amount to go to Australia or Canada. Scottish Widows or Sun should suit best amongst those mentioned.

NYTH BRAN.—J. W.—As the Company say there has been fraud, it must be the collector's fault. You should insist on return of premiums paid.

REFUGE ASSURANCE.—W. R. (Wakefield).—The agent ought not to have persuaded your wife. The policy is illegal, as it was not apparently taken out for funeral expenses. Try to come to an arrangement with the Society. W. R. (Penge).—It is certainly bad treatment Try a solicitor's letter. O. M. (Weymouth).—In the face of the Company's undertaking to pay, you cannot plead what was, in fact, your own mistake. Let well alone. A. C. M. (Stepney).—The policy was taken out fraudulently, as your father was in hospital and nothing stated. Make the best terms you can.

LIFE ASSURANCE.—HUSA (Wigan).—A small office. Why did you not go to a larger one?

PROFITS AND INCOME.—T. H. O. (Rochdale).—All permanent contracts are stated to be guaranteed by the Legal and General Life, a large Company.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA.—M. R. C. S.; T. R. C. P.—The Company are quite right, without the consent of your mother it is impossible for them to do what you require.

STANDING OF TWO COMPANIES.—A. M. (Ayr).—(1) A very small concern, capital £50,000. (2) Are you sure about this title?

UNITED PROVIDENT.—F. M. (Bath).—The policy is worthless, but if you can prove that the agent has signed the insured's name, you can demand back the premiums paid, or obtain the regularisation of policy. R. F. (Derby).—You have put yourself out of court by allowing the premiums to lapse. You had better get their positive assurance that they will pay at death, and go on paying. Policy returned

BRITANNIC (Dulwich).—The question is, who made the mistake or committed the fraud which renders the policies illegal.

BOXUS SYSTEM.—P. H. A. (By Auckland).—Your signature was not required, and the money must accumulate for your children.

PROVINCIAL HOME INVESTMENT.—READER (Walsall).—The surrender value offered is inadequate. It is a case for a solicitor.

COLLAPSE OF SOCIETIES.—M. S. AND I.—Yours is a grave responsibility, and you had better consult a solicitor.

18 YEARS' POLICY.—E. E. W. (Bilston).—You do not mention the Company. The policy is illegal, but you would not find it easy to prove the advice of the agent. Better compromise.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—E. C. (Manchester).—If the policies are Prudential, sue for the return of the premiums. A CONSTANT READER (Llangsfield).—If the assured did not sign, the premiums are recoverable. J. W. (Bristol.)—If your sister did not sign you could recover the premiums. E. R. (Brighton).—The policies seem to be in order on E. H. We do not advise proceedings. W. H. (New Mills).—Without knowing more of the circumstances we cannot advise. W. S. (Tweedmouth).—They cannot take advantage of an innocent mistake. E. T. (Stoke).—Consult a local solicitor. H. D. (Leeds).—Sue for premiums and prove the facts. I. D. (Birkenhead).—The contract is illegal, but we do not advise proceedings unless you can prove fraud. G. D. (Catford).—Ditto. LIVE CLEAR (Woodside Station).—You can recover the premiums. M. T. (Brecklet).—Sue for the premiums. T. R. (Leeds).—Without evidence of fraud we do not advise proceedings. R. V.—You can recover the premiums. R. W. AND SON (Maesteg).—As you have consulted a solicitor, we do not presume to advise you. It looks a good case. A W. (Brentford).—Consult a local solicitor and sue. M. O.—The policies seem legal. E. A. G. (Sunderland).—If you did not sign the proposal you could recover the premiums. Try to compromise the whole matter. L. S. P. (Leicester).—Get the Company to endorse the policy in the girl's favour. BIT (Ashton-under-Lyne).—We do not advise proceedings. G. E. T (Elgin).—The surrender value would be small; you must decide. THE BARD (Northampton).—We think the amount is correct.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of enquiries which have been received, some little delay is dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

BY WALTER MOORE.

[*In this column our contributor has an imaginary interview with some celebrity of the day.*]

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEIPZIC COURT.

Burning with indignation at the news of the savage sentence inflicted on Mr. Bertrand Stewart for alleged espionage, I hurried across to Germany and sought an interview with the President of the Court which had condemned him.

It may be wondered how I contrived to gain access to that exalted personage. It was sufficient to whisper that I had certain information respecting a British spy. I was promptly seized, dragged, and pushed along the corridor, and shoved into the Judge's room.

The President lifted his head from his desk and scowled.

"First of all, I have to thank you on behalf of the British people for the manner in which you conducted the trial of Mr. Bertrand Stewart," I said.

The judge opened his eyes wide with astonishment.

"*Zank* me!" he cried, incredulously. "Der Breetish beoble *zank* me? Nein, zat gannod be. Der Breetish babers are all mad mit me. Dey all abuse me. Exblain."

"You see," I began, "you and your precious Supreme Court have opened the eyes of the British public as to what German justice is like. You have shown us what we should have to expect in the event of a successful German invasion. The average Britisher is a mild, long-suffering individual. He will sit placid, and watch his trade being filched from him by foreign competitors; he will put up with being governed by a wild Welshman, backed up by a squad of Scotch politicians and a mob of Irish irreconcilables. But once offend his sense of justice and you touch him on the raw. Justice may not be administered in Britain with absolute impartiality in all cases. That I fully admit. But, on the whole, we have the most impartial judicial system on earth. With your hole-in-the-corner trial of Mr. Bertrand Stewart, you have demonstrated that the German sense of justice is defective. You admitted the evidence of a Belgian *agent provocateur*, who had himself been guilty of fraud, embezzlement and forgery. On the strength of that tainted evidence you have sentenced an English gentleman to three-and-a-half years' imprisonment in a German fortress. We deeply sympathise with the victim of your vindictive proceedings, but at the same time we thank you for the invaluable lesson you have given us in German methods and German justice. Something of this sort was wanted to counteract the dangerously insidious efforts of our peace-at-any-price, cut-down-the-Navy, kiss-the-German-rod party. Now we are wide awake."

"You haff zome invormation aboud a Breetish sby, ja?"

"Not exactly," I retorted. "I daresay you acted according to your lights. But those lights are dim—deuced dim. Why did you not give Mr. Stewart a public trial? Why should you conduct your proceedings *in camera* if there was nothing in your methods to be ashamed of? Why, if we worked on your lines we should kick half the German waiters, barbers, and musicians at present living in England out of the country to-morrow—after a mock trial conducted in the dark. Once more, thanks. Now we know you."

[We do not know how our contributor managed to evade arrest. It is sufficient that he is back with us once more.—ED.]

CHANGING HER FACE

(From the Household Friend.)

Any woman not satisfied with her complexion can remove it and have a new one. The thin veil of stifling half-dead cuticle is an encumbrance, and should be removed to give the fresh, vigorous young skin underneath a chance to show itself and to breathe.

There is a simple old-fashioned home remedy which will always do the work. Get some pure mercolized wax from your chemist, and apply it at night like cold cream, washing it off in the morning. The mercolide will gently absorb all the lifeless skin, and leave a healthy and beautiful complexion, as fresh as a child's. Naturally, it takes with it all such facial blemishes as freckles, tan, moth patches, sallowness, liver spots, pimples, etc. It is pleasant to use, effective and economical. The face so treated immediately looks years younger.

WHY NOT CONSULT A HAIR SPECIALIST FREE.

There is but one way to tell the reason

of baldness and falling hair and that is by a microscope examination of the hair itself. The particular disease with which your scalp is afflicted must be known before it can be intelligently treated. The use of so-called dandruff cures and hair tonics, without knowing the specific cause of your disease is like taking medicine without knowing what you are trying to cure. Send us a few hairs taken from your combings, together with this advertisement, and our consulting bacteriologist will send you absolutely free a diagnosis of your case. Carefully answer following questions, and if after carefully examining your hair combings we feel that your case is incurable, we shall not hesitate to tell you.

Does your hair come out freely when combed?..... Is your hair dry and brittle or greasy?..... How long do you think your hair has been falling?..... Does your scalp itch when you are ho?..... Has your hair turned grey, and how long?..... Send the above particulars, enclosing stamped addressed envelope for reply, to—

The Vis Hara Co., 138, High Holborn, London, W.C.

CASTLE Collars

5/11 PER DOZEN. Postage 3d. extra.

Irish made and faced with pure Linen woven in our own factory.

This shape is a typical outdoor collar, in all depths.

Sample Collar, in any shape or size, post free for six stamps.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER,

44, P. Donegall Place. LTD.

LONDON. BELFAST. LIVERPOOL

MONEY.—£5 to £5,000 AT SHORT NOTICE.

EASY REPAYMENTS. STRICTEST PRIVACY.

THE WEST LONDON ADVANCE CO., LTD.,

278, Pentonville Road, King's Cross, N. (side entrance).

GRAMOPHONE.—Genuine thirty-guinea instrument; mahogany Sheraton enclosed cabinet, four feet high; perfect order as new; seven pounds (records included). Seen any time, or approval willingly. Holt, 37, Endell Street, Long Acre, London, W.C.

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE BACK COVER.

DRINK "A DAILY CUP OF HEALTH AND STRENGTH" WITH MR. SANDOW.

NEARLY A MILLION ALREADY BENEFITING FROM THE NEW SANDOW HEALTH AND STRENGTH COCOA.

STRENGTH FOR THE DAY'S WORK AND SOUND SLEEP EVERY NIGHT.

After convincing the whole world of the value of physical culture in the maintenance and restoration of health and strength, Mr. Sandow is now supplementing his good work by supplying to the Nation a new Cocoa beverage that is liquid health and strength.

At the small cost of 7½d. for a full weight ¼-lb. tin, one may start and finish the day with the new "drink-diet" that sustains the strength during the day and brings restful sleep at night.

Nearly a million men and women are already drinking their daily cup of health and strength with Mr. Sandow, and each time a man or woman newly experiences its luscious and delightful anti-fatigue effect a new follower is added to this host of health-diet enthusiasts.

A Cup has the Effect of a Good Meal.

For the effect of drinking a cup of Sandow's Cocoa is like the comfort-giving and strengthening effect of a good meal. The stimulation it quickly gives, because it is so light and easily assimilated, is lasting—not at all like the fleeting stimulation of tea or coffee.

For instance, a tired or hungry person can take a cup of tea and feel temporarily stimulated, but half an hour or so afterwards that person nearly always feels more dispirited than before having taken the tea.

Let the drink be of the new Sandow Health and Strength Cocoa, and the drinker will feel "fresh as a daisy" for hours.

Why the difference?

Because in the case of tea the stimulation comes from the irritation of "nervous centres," whilst the lasting stimulation of Sandow's Cocoa is provided by its nourishing power, which creates actual strength.

Quickly Transformed into Bodily Energy.

Strength is the first thing one loses when deprived of nourishment.

Strength is also the first thing one gains as the result of taking nourishment.

Some foods require much longer time than others to be transformed into bodily energy. And it should be noted—as pointed out by Mr. Sandow—that such difficult-to-transform foods have another very serious fault. In addition to requiring so much longer time to digest, they consume a proportionately larger amount of one's existing energy.

The immediate call for digestive energy may be so large as to temporarily drain away energy from the brain, the heart, the lungs, and other vital organs.

It is in such cases that one feels drowsy, lethargic, and energy-less. Why? Because too large an amount of vital energy has been summoned to attend to the over-work of the stomach.

Mr. Sandow realised the all-important requirement of a true health-diet drink. He dealt with it in a scientific way, and in the making of his new perfected Health and Strength Cocoa he employs an improved process that breaks up the cocoa bean so fine as to liberate more of its inherent goodness than was hitherto possible.

Super-Nourishing Power in Every Grain.

The nourishing power of cocoa has always been considered wonderful by food experts, but the super-nourishing power of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa has caused them to look upon the latter as the final stage of cocoa perfection.

Let the reader not misunderstand. There is nothing added to Mr. Sandow's Cocoa to develop this super-nourishing quality. Every grain of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa is pure cocoa.

First the useless parts of the husk are taken away. Then by a special "wind-sifting" process Sandow's Cocoa is ground extremely fine—so fine that there are many millions more tiny particles to the gramme than in ordinary cocoa. This greater fineness of Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa makes it much more soluble, and this greater solubility is one of the factors which makes it easier to digest.

Many cases of indigestion and dyspepsia—and failure to derive or maintain a proper standard of health and strength—are caused by those particles of food which the stomach fails to digest easily.

Mr. Sandow has seen to it that his new cocoa is *completely soluble*. It leaves no sediment either in the cup or in the stomach.

It is also very quickly and easily digested and assimilated. There is no digestive labour. The result is a quick addition to one's vital energy. And this addition of energy is not short-lived. It is actual food-created energy.

A quarter pound tin—7½d.—will prove that Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa is the only cocoa for regular general use.

Why You Should Try this Drink with Mr. Sandow to-day.

The delightful "melt-in-the-mouth-like" chocolate flavour—the wonderful ease of its assimilation—and the greater and longer-lasting strength which it creates, all combine to tempt every reader to give Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa a trial.

Take it in the morning and it will energise and support you during the day's work with less fatigue than you now experience.

Make Sandow's Cocoa your supper drink, and it will nourish you overnight so that you can rise each morning feeling full of vitality. Begin now to benefit by this health-drink, which you can obtain at even lower proportionate cost than ordinary cocoa.

Try a cup with Mr. Sandow to-day, because it gives you greater nourishment for less money. In fact, owing to the extremely fine grinding causing the new Cocoa to bulk larger than ordinary cocoa—it is—cup for cup—the cheapest pure cocoa on the market.

All Grocers, Chemists, Provision Dealers, and Stores will supply you with Sandow's Health and Strength Cocoa on request in full-weight ¼ lb. tins at 7½d., or larger tins can be obtained at 1s. 3d. per ½-lb., and 2s. 6d. per 1 lb. If you experience any difficulty in obtaining it you will be supplied direct and *post free* on sending P.O. or stamps for the tin you require to Mr. Eugen Sandow, Elephant and Castle, London, S.E.

SPURIOUS SYMPOSIUMS.

Supposititious Replies of Prominent People.

[It is our custom to hold a weekly—imaginary—symposium upon some topic of the hour, giving the views of representative men.]

ALCOHOL.

The personal tastes of celebrities always seem to interest the public. More especially do the views of important personages on the vexed question of alcoholic indulgence entertain the man—and woman—in the street. We have, therefore, put the following questions to a number of prominent people, and now have pleasure in printing their replies :—

Do you believe in the use of alcoholic beverages? If so, why, and which? If not, why not?

Mr. G. K. Chesterton :—

I believe most emphatically in drink because it was a jolly old custom of our ancestors to booze till all was blue. Beer is my mark. Give it me in a tankard, foaming, with beaded bubbles winking at the brim, as Keats put it. I know of no greater pleasure vouchsafed to mortal man than to drop in at a wayside inn after a long tramp along dusty country roads, and call for a pint of ale in a mug. Beef, bread, and beer made Britain what it is, and went a very long way towards making me what I am. We know very well that the British Navy floats upon beer. For this reason alone I consider it the duty of every patriotic citizen to take his pint like a man, and no heel taps.

Mr. G. B. Shaw :—

I hope you are not asking my friend G. K. Chesterton to take part in this symposium, because if so he is sure to say something likely to corrupt the youth of England. I know his views on the question of beer, and I am not altogether ignorant of his powers of absorption. For my own part, I detest alcohol in every shape and form, because the smallest drop of anything stronger than barley water goes at once to my brilliant brain and makes me say things that I am sure to be sorry for afterwards. If I were afflicted with a dull and sluggish temperament, like the majority of people, I might be tempted to indulge. But being constantly inebriated with the exuberance of my own genius, I do not need alcoholic stimulants' artful aid.

Mr. Lloyd George :—

Although I am a Welshman, a nonconformist, and an advanced Radical, I must confess that I have still enough of the Old Adam left in me to enjoy a whisky and soda. The most perfect of us have our little weaknesses, and it is just those small failings—if I may use the word—that endear us to our fellow creatures. I find the House of Commons whisky very good.

Miss Marie Corelli :—

I am surprised that you should ask me such a question. Living, as I do, more in the world of spirit than of flesh, I have no need for the artificial stimulus of wine. Of course I always keep a little brandy in the house in case of emergencies.

Mr. J. M. Barrie :—

I would if I could, but my stomach won't stand it. Little Mary rebels against beer. The only indulgence I permit myself is unlimited tobacco.

Sir Thomas Whittaker :—

I consider your question nothing less than an insult. It does not follow that because I once had a financial interest in a public house, and have been known to recommend brewery shares as a good investment, that I myself drink. Ardent temperance advocates never—or hardly ever—drink, as you must know; at any rate, not in public.

The Rev. F. B. Meyer :—

How *dare* you ask me such a series of *insulting questions?*

A very good illustrated book almanack for 1912 is that published by Thomas Holloway, proprietor of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. It is crowded with useful items and the illustrations are excellent. It also contains a railway accident insurance coupon for £250. A free copy may be obtained from any chemist, or one will be sent by the Publisher, 113, Southwark Street, London, S.E., on receipt of halfpenny stamp for postage.

The Long Distance Champion

Endurance, Nerve Energy, Strength—

All the wonderful things are being done by the men who can keep going longer, last out longer than their fellows, and solely because Phosferine gave him energy to *do better* than all other runners, Mr. C. W. Hart, at forty-four years of age, finds himself champion long-distance runner of the world. In publicly recognising the invigorating properties of Phosferine, Mr. Hart declares that a man of his age could never have run from London to Brighton and back in chilling rain and biting wind unless he had the foresight to ensure *continuous* and *regular* effort by enlisting the aid of Phosferine. Alike with Gardiner, the Marathon winner, and other notable athletes, Mr. Hart proved absolutely that Phosferine gave him power to go as far and as long as he pleased, always keeping his nervous energy *up to his needs*, and such evidence positively assures ordinary men and women who attempt to *do better than others* that Phosferine will provide the energy to *keep up any effort.*

Rapidly and Regularly Obtained.

Charles Walter Hart, champion long-distance runner of the world (London to Brighton and back, Dec. 24th, 1911), writes: "As holder of the world's long-distance running record, I am of opinion that Phosferine is the very best means for ensuring endurance and providing the nervous energy necessary for *regular* and *continuous* effort. By training on Phosferine I can reckon with mathematical certainty to go as far and as long as I have planned to run, and, what is more, finish without any distress, as lively and with muscles as supple as an acrobat's. Even after excessive efforts, I have a splendid, *steady* action of the heart, and this I know is due to the increased nerve strength built up by Phosferine. After comparing results, I find nothing dispels nervous disorders so effectively as Phosferine, for nowadays I have not a trace of indigestion, have an excellent appetite, and sleep as sound as a top."—Dec. 26th, 1911. 74b, Lupus Street, Pimlico, London.

PHOSFERINE

GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

NEURALGIA	MATERNITY WEAKNESS	HYSTERIA
RHEUMATISM	NERVOUS HEADACHES	SLEEPLESSNESS
BRAIN-FAG	PREMATURE DECAY	EXHAUSTION
LASSITUDE	INFLUENZA	MALARIA
INDIGESTION	ANAEMIA NEURITIS	NERVOUSNESS

And disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

The Royal Tonic.

Phosferine has been supplied by Royal Commands to

The Royal Family
H.I.M. The Empress of Russia
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia
H.M. the King of Greece
H.M. the King of Spain
The Imperial Family of China

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

I Can Restore Your Sight.

I OFFER PROOF POSITIVE IN THE INTENSELY ENTHUSIASTIC REPORTS OF "JOHN BULL" READERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY TESTED MY WONDERFUL NEW DISCOVERY.

I shall be pleased to give full explanation to any caller, or I will send illustrated particulars, entirely without charge, on application by letter.

PROOF BEYOND DOUBT!

This is what I promise to everyone whose eyesight is defective—absolute, indisputable, convincing evidence that eyesight troubles which are so prevalent to-day and ever increasing can be cured. It sounds almost incredible, I know, but it is nevertheless plain truth that perfect vision can be recovered, even by those who have not enjoyed it for years, by my marvellous Method of Treatment, the results of which have been so wonderful that the reports of treated cases read more like sensational fiction than cold, solid fact. Already JOHN BULL has investigated the claims made, and has enthusiastically endorsed them.

It is the very success—the phenomenal success — of my treatment in dealing with cases of eyesight troubles entailed in the list below that makes its triumphs so amazing to those who have suffered similar afflictions and never been able to find even temporary relief from glasses, much less a permanent cure.

To these, as indeed to every reader of JOHN BULL who is a victim of eyesight trouble, I offer to send positive proof that perfect sight can be obtained in a safe, inexpensive, natural way, without the use of glasses.

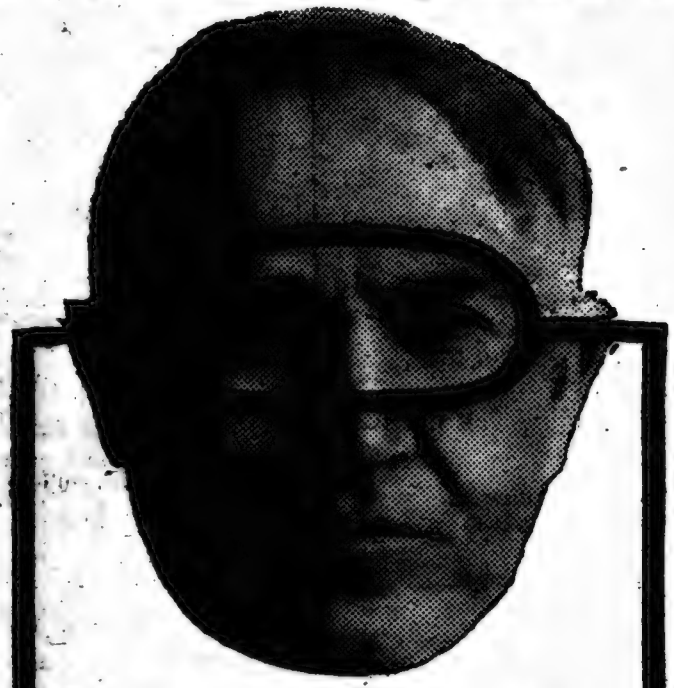
CONSULTATION PERSONALLY OR BY LETTER WITHOUT CHARGE.

If your eyesight is weak or failing or in any way defective do not hesitate to learn about my method.

I shall be most pleased if you can call upon me at 19, New Oxford Street, when I will see you personally, and we can go together most thoroughly into your case. For the consultation or the advice I give I make no charge.

But if it is not convenient for you to call you can still consult me by writing, and I will send a free copy of my book, which will give you most invaluable information upon your own eyesight trouble and tell you how you can cure it by my system at home.

I do this because I want everyone to have the opportunity of learning, whether they decide to profit from the knowledge or not, that no matter how serious or long standing their eyesight trouble may be, there is every hope for them that they may be cured by my treatment, as hundreds of others have been.



CAN YOU READ THESE TEST TYPES.

On the third of September, One Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty

and burned and burned, for three days. The nights were lighter than the days; in

great tower of fire mounting up into the sky, which lighted the whole country

conflagration to great distances, and kindled it in twenty new spots at a time; church steeples

The summer had been intensely hot and dry, the streets were very narrow, and the houses mostly built of wood and plaster.

HOLD AT ARMS LENGTH AND IF YOU CANNOT READ ALL OF THESE TYPES CLEARLY—DO NOT HESITATE BUT FORWARD THE FORM BELOW TO-DAY.

Professional men, clergymen, writers, school teachers—persons of both sexes engaged in occupations whose nature entails constant use of their eyes and inflicts continual strain upon their sight, tell in this book what a God-send my treatment has proved to them, how in some cases it has enabled them to retain their positions, loss of which was threatened by failing sight, and so averted the greatest disaster that can overtake any man or woman—incapability to work or enjoy life.

More than any words of mine could do, their gratitude and enthusiastic testimony must convince the most confirmed sceptic of the value of my treatment.

It is equally successful in each of the following conditions:—

1. Failing or weakening eyesight.
2. Long sightedness.
3. Short sightedness.
4. Blurring.
5. Twitching eyes.
6. Hot eyes.
7. Watery eyes.
8. Discharging eyes.
9. Unequal power of eyes.
10. Aching eyes.
11. Red and inflamed eyes.
12. Eyesight headache.

The simplicity of my treatment—it occupies little time daily, does not interfere with one's usual routine, and is completely carried out at home—its inexpensiveness and its permanent, beneficial results, are fully explained in my book.

If you write me particulars of your own defect I will carefully consider them and freely give you my opinion and advice upon it.

As I have said before, if you can call and see me, do so, when, free of any fee or obligation, I will give you a personal consultation and my best advice; but if you cannot call, just send me the form below to-day, and so take advantage of an opportunity which no eyesight sufferer can afford to neglect.

FORM FOR CONVENIENCE IN WRITING FOR JOHN LEVISON'S BOOK ON EYESIGHT TROUBLES.

Please enclose 1d. stamp to cover cost of postage.

To Mr. JOHN LEVISON, 19, New Oxford Street, London, W.C.

Name.....

Address.....

"JOHN BULL," Feb. 17th, 1912. Please write clearly.

ANTICIPATED EPITAPHS.

By W. M.

[In this column we give from week to week an anticipatory —always good-humoured—Epitaph of some celebrity of the day. We need scarcely say we hope it will be many years before his relatives will have to consider seriously our suggestion.]

Here
Refte ye boans
Of
Ye Rygdte Honourable Charles Robert,
Earl Spencer,
P.C., M.A., G.C.V.O.,
Sometyme
Lorde Chamberlayne.
Born
Anno Domini 1857,
Hys educaçione,
Begynnynge atte Harrow,
Was finifhed atte Trinitie College, Cambridge,
Where hee diftinguifhed hymfelfe
In amateur theatricals.
Anno Domini 1880
Hee entered ye Houfe of Commons
As Member for North Northants,
Becomynge confpicuous in thatte auguft afsemblie
Bye reafon of hys sartorial elegance.
None wore such hygh collars as hee,
Nor were ye troufers of any so carefullie creafed
As hys.
Thus attyred
In all ye glorie of a Piccadillie lounger,
Hee one daie electrifyed ye House
Bye sayinge
"I am notte an agricultural labourer,"
Ye whyche confefçion
Was greeted wyth loude cheeres.
Havynge therebye made a reputaçion as an orator,
Hee was promoted to ye pofiçion of
Lorde Chamberlayne,
Whose arduous and exacktynge duties include
Ye Licensynge of Plaies.
All wente welle untill
Anno Domini 1911,
When,
In a momente of mental abberraçion
Hee appoynted
Mr. Charles Brookfield,
Ye authour of
"Dear Old Charlie,"
As
Afsiftant Cenfor.
Atte once a storm of difapproval broke upon hys head;
In a momente
Ye reputaçione hee hadde worthilie wonne
For supreme tackt
Was loft:
And,
Difmayed bye ye tempeft hee hadde aroufed,
Hee loft hys head
To suche a degree
Thatte,
Stoppynge onlie to organize Ye Thankgivynge Servyce
Atte.
St. Paul's Cathedral
To celebrate ye King's safe return from India,
Hee hurried backe to Ye Stable Yard,
St. James's Palace,
Packed hys trappes,
Bade Dear Old Charlie an affectynge farewell,
And,
Takynge no further intereft in hys
Collars, hys cuffes,
Or hys lyfe,
Retyred to Althorp Park
And dyed.

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?

See Page ii. of Cover.

GAINS 2 STONE 10 IN 40 DAYS.

Remarkable Results of the New Tissue Builder, Sargol, in Many Cases of Run-Down Men and Women.

Prove it Yourself by Sending Coupon Below for a 2/6 Packet Free.

"My word! I never saw anything like the effects of that new treatment, Sargol, for the building up of weight and lost nerve force. It acted more like a miracle than a medicine," said a well-known gentleman yesterday in speaking of the revolution that had taken place in his condition. "I began to think that there was nothing on earth that could make me fat. I tried tonics, digestives, heavy eating diet, milk, stout, and almost everything else you could think of, but without result.

THE START END OF SECOND MONTH

"I had been thin for years, and began to think it was natural for me to be that way. Finally I read about the remarkable results brought about by the use of Sargol, so I decided to try it myself. Well, when I look at myself in the mirror now I think it is somebody else. I have put on just 2 stone 10 during the last month, and never felt stronger or more 'nervy' in my life."

Sargol is a powerful inducer of nutrition, increases cell growth, makes perfect assimilation of food, increases the number of blood corpuscles, and as a necessary result builds up muscles and solid, healthy flesh, and rounds out the figure.

For women who can never appear stylish in anything they wear because of their thinness, this remarkable treatment may prove a revelation. It is a beauty-maker as well as a form-builder and nerve strengthener. Men increase their nerve power as well as adding many pounds of good healthy flesh.

It will cost you nothing to prove the remarkable effects of this treatment. It is absolutely non-injurious to the most delicate system. The Sargol Company will send to anyone who sends name and address a free 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, with instructions, to prove that it does the work. They will also send you their book on "Why You Are Thin" free of charge, giving facts which will probably astonish you. Send coupon below to-day, with your name and address.

FREE SARGOL COUPON.

This Coupon entitles any thin person to one 2s. 6d. package of Sargol, the concentrated Flesh Food (provided you have never tried it and that 3d. is enclosed to cover postage, packing, and so forth). Read our advertisement printed above, then put 3d. in stamps in the letter to-day with this Coupon, and the full 2s. 6d. package will be sent you by return of post.

Address: THE SARGOL COMPANY,
(Dept. 616), 134, HOLBORN, LONDON, E.C.

In the February issue of the

Financial Review of Reviews

Mr. Alan Burgoyne, M.P., writes on "Some Financial Aspects of British Naval Defence," and

A Member of Parliament and Banker writes on "Bank Reserves from a New Point of View."

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

Publisher: 2, Waterloo Place, S.W.

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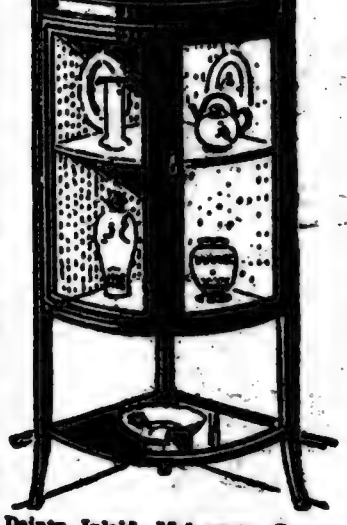

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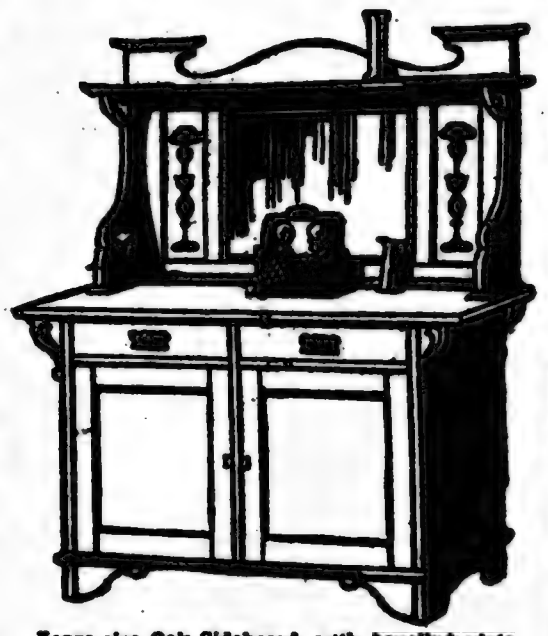

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CHARACTER DELINEATIONS.

By Our Tame Phrenologist.

We have engaged, at enormous expense, an eminent phrenologist—who is, withal, a deep student of current problems—to "feel the bumps" of prominent public men, for the benefit of our readers. How he manages to secure the "sittings" is his own secret.]

MR. JOHN REDMOND.

This is a pleasu e, sir. . . . I am gratified that you have found time, on the eve of the opening of Parliament, to grant me a sitting. I have examined the heads of various royalties, but this is the first time I have had the privilege of feeling the bumps of an uncrowned King of Ireland. Pray be seated.

I should not have been surprised to find a few extra bumps on your head, as a result of the Belfast meeting. But you appear to have escaped unscathed, with your organ of *Firmness* still the most prominent feature of your cranium. What a deal you owe to that invaluable faculty, sir! Firmness. Without firmness you would never have been able to grasp Mr. Asquith and his Government in your hand and put them in your pocket as you have done. Your firmness has deprived the Lords of their veto, and made you the arbiter of the fate of the Liberal caucus. Here is the bump, sir—on the top of your head, just behind the organ of *Veneration*, or, rather, where the organ of *Veneration* should be; for I notice that you are deficient of that faculty. I say you *are*, sir. . . It is useless to dispute it. There is a distinct hollow. You may feel it for yourself. Besides, your recent political conduct confirms it. No politician possessing a normal bump of *Veneration* would have consented to drag the King into the Home Rule dispute, or to make such a dead set against that ancient institution, the House of Lords.

Another faculty which has contributed largely to your success is indicated by this projection over your ears—*Acquisitiveness*. By its aid you collected dollars in America for the Nationalist cause, and it has assisted you to come to the arrangement with the Cabinet whereby Ireland is not only to have Home Rule, but a nice little contribution of £2,000,000 yearly as a sort of separation allowance.

Combativeness is another prominent feature of your character, but from the shape of the organ I am led to believe that it is not exactly the sort of combativeness we are accustomed to associate with the Irish temperament. It is not the "tread on the tail of my coat" variety. This may be due to the excessive development of your bump of *Secretiveness*, which causes you to carry on your fighting unobtrusively, but none the less determinedly.

I find indications of musical abilities. *Tune* is especially marked. There is no doubt whatever that you are "calling the tune" at Westminster just now, ha, ha! having paid the piper in the person of Lloyd George and Mr. Asquith. And what an Irish jig it is, to be sure.

But you do not smile, sir. Surely you are not lacking in Irish wit? Let me see. No, I thought not. But this bump of *Cautiousness* restrains your mirth, I have no doubt. Well, well; we shall see. They say that he who laughs last laughs best. Perhaps, when the Home Rule Bill becomes law, after being bandied backwards and forwards between the House of Lords and Commons for two years or so, you will permit yourself to smile. But do not be too confident. I have heard strange rumours of a General Election in the near future.

Thank you, sir; generous, like most Irishmen. Good day.

That's what You want for your Skin Trouble

Is your face covered with pimples, blotches, blackheads, or spots? Is your skin disfigured by eczema? Have you an itching rash all over your chest or back? Are you troubled by a breaking-out or raw place on your leg that irritates and worries you day and night? Apply Antexema, and you will instantly get rid of the itching, burning pain. Go on applying it, and soon your skin will be so clear and healthy you will be proud of it, instead of being worried as you are now. Our confidence in the certainty of Antexema curing you is due to the fact that during the last twenty-five years it has worked hundreds of thousands of similar miracles. Antexema has cured skin sufferers who suffered martyrdom, and failed to get the slightest benefit from doctors, hospitals, or any other treatment whatever. Send for Free Trial and prove its virtues. Every skin-complaint is cured by Antexema. Eczema, whether dry, weeping, scaly, or gouty; ringworm, bad legs, face spots, chaps, chilblains, and every irritated, inflamed, or diseased skin condition is cooled and soothed the moment Antexema touches it. The healing process starts immediately, new skin begins to grow, and every day the appearance of your skin steadily improves until it becomes spotless. Antexema was a doctor's discovery, and you have but to try it to be delighted. Never delay treatment of Skin illness.

Go to any chemist or stores and get a bottle of Antexema to-day. Boots Cash Chemists, Army and Navy, Civil Service Stores, Harrods, Selfridge's, Whiteley's, Parke's, Taylor's Drug Stores, and Lewis and Burrows supply it at 1/1½ and 2/3. Also in India, Australia, Canada, Africa, every British Dominion, and throughout Europe.

SPECIAL TRIAL COUPON

Fill in Coupon, enclose three penny stamps for handbook, "Skin Troubles," and receive Free Trial of Antexema and Antexema Soap, the famous skin soap. Send to-day to Antexema, Castle Laboratory, Jeffreys Place, London, N.W.

Name .....

Address .....

John Bull. 17/2/12.

A WONDERFUL CHANCE.

In order to place before every reader THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY of acquiring a FREE SHARE in an industrial concern under Municipal and Government control, . arrangements have been made bv a well-known firm of Bankers to distribute

100,000 FREE SHARES

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£25,000

Without any Cost or Liability whatsoever, to applicants.

These certificates will be issued

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therefore it is important to reply at once if you intend to grasp this WONDERFUL CHANCE OF ACQUIRING SOMETHING FOR NOTHING, which may be worth, in the course of a short period, a crisp five pound note.

All you have to do is to write your name and address plainly on a post card, put a PENNY STAMP on it and

Post at Once.

This is an offer made to the thrifty saver, and a CHANCE OF A LIFETIME. It is in no way connected with Premium Bonds or Lottery Tickets. All the Bankers wish to do is to put before 100,000 people an Illustrated Prospectus of an opportunity that will produce a fortune.

IF YOU RECEIVE NO REPLY you will understand that the whole of the 100,000 Free Scrip have been applied for.

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HATTON, MORRIS & CO., Bankers (Dept. J.B.),

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BUY DIRECT FROM FACTORY

and save a large part of the money you have been accustomed to spend on boots. Remember by doing this and buying "Footshape" Boots you do not get boots cheaper in quality as well as in price, but actually get BETTER boots at prices 25 to 50 per cent. lower than the usual shop prices. How do we do it? By being the actual makers and dispensing with shops, their expensive upkeep and management! The saving we give to you and you are able to buy fewer and better boots per year and have more money to put by for the "rainy day" or for extra luxuries. Show your wise judgment and send 8/6 to-day for a pair of "Footshapes" on the "money-back-if-not-satisfied" principle.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1617. BOX CALF BOOT, 8/6.—Splendid Box Calf Uppers, straight golosh, no outside seam, unbreakable jockey back, toe-capped (as illustrated), best linen lined, specially selected, hard-wearing solid leather sole, sewn. Best make and finish throughout.

No. 1717.—GLACE KID BOOT, 8/6.—Exactly same style and quality as above but slightly lighter in weight.

No. 1417.—BROWN WILLOW CALF, 8/6.—A magnificent boot, rich nut-brown shade and warranted real "Willow" Calf. (Note. Brown costs 1/- extra.)

Warranted All Leather.

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SIZES: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths, No. 3 width (for slender feet); No. 4 (medium); No. 5. (wide): No. 6 (extra wide). Simply state the style, number of boot, and size and width required.

If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw outline of stockinged foot on paper. (Outline of boot is of no use.)

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for "Footshape" Boots on trial.

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Width .....

If I am not satisfied you are to return my money in full.

"John Bull," Feb. 17, 1912.

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GRAVES SUITS

Send Postcard for our Handsome Selection of Suiting Patterns cut from the cloth lengths which we are now making up into Stylish, Gentlemanly Autumn and Winter Suits. This fine exhibition of cloth samples includes the most attractive and durable designs in Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, plain Black and Blue Vicunas, and a splendid range of hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings at 25/- and 42/-. Graves Tailoring is for men of all ages, and wherever you live, our challenging prices and easy terms are for YOU. All approved orders are delivered carriage paid for 5/-, and balance in six monthly payments. When tried on at home, if you are disappointed with the material, style, fit, or goodness of the work, we instantly return all money paid.

5/- with order.

Send a Postcard for Patterns To-day.

With our fine display of cloth samples in your hands, you can judge for yourself the quality and durability of the materials, and you will be astonished to find how easily you may dress well on a surprisingly small outlay. 2½ in £ Cash Discount.

J. G. Graves Ltd. Sheffield.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag,"* AND ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

"ECONOMISERS" (Wakefield).—There is no objection to several friends sending Football Competition coupons in one envelope, provided the name and address of one of them is put on the back.

J. A. R. (Glasgow).—"Jim Crow" has literally gone to the dogs!

E. J. R. (Norwich) AND OTHERS criticise our recent reference to the "late" Professor Stewart. But surely he is no longer a professor—except of mustard, having, we understand, relinquished all other occupations to devote his sole attention to the interests of that useful condiment!

C. J. J. H. asks whether it is "right that a Medical Assessor (County Court) should act as a medical witness in the same Court." The answer is in the negative, but we believe it to be perfectly legal, all the same. Right and law are not always synonymous terms.

"MISS PEASANCE."—There was no question of duplication in the recent proceedings.

"WELL-WISHER" (Edinburgh).—If you can devise a competition which will not offend the scruples of your Lord Advocate, we shall be delighted to consider it.

A. S. (Egypt) wants to know whether, when the first twenty Business Government candidates are elected, they will not automatically form a new "Party."

A. C. G. (East Ham).—Our columns are always open to both sides of a question, and anything in answer to our recent criticisms of Mr. Keir Hardie will receive fair treatment. It is news to us that our articles have "been going the rounds of the Liberal Press for the last fifteen years."

"EMMA" (Bowden) sends us a cheery postcard, telling us not to be worried or flurried. We won't!

J. W. C. (Sheffield).—The "*Next* Vensday" Chestnut fell off a tree in the Garden of Eden!

E. M. (Ipswich).—We do not award biscuits to ourselves—that would be greedy and selfish. Besides, the man's feet *did* slip "up"—even if other parts of his anatomy came down.

F. S. (Lincoln) AND ALL OTHERS INTERESTED.—*Football Chat* has suspended payment. Competitors who have not received their winnings have no alternative but to "grin and bear it." They should study their JOHN BULL more closely.

J. E. AND SONS, LTD. (Sheffield).—Sorry you have suffered for the sins of the *Sheffield Daily Independent*. Perhaps you will be kind enough to pass the "Biscuit" on to the Advertisement Manager of that paper.

A. H. J. (Bedford).—It is impossible for editors to guard their subscribers against all the devices of trick advertisers. If readers only exercised a little commonsense, they would not be taken in so often. Surely, everybody knows nowadays that nobody gives anything for nothing.

R. H. C. (Fulham).—Copies of all Bills introduced into Parliament can be obtained through any newsagent. The prices vary from ½d. upwards, according to length.

B. L. F. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—Glad to hear your little daughter introduced a copy of JOHN BULL into her Fairy Play. A happy combination o' fact and fiction. No wonder the performance was such a great success. Good luck to the young dramatist!

"ELSAR" (Balham).—We are receiving quite a lot of complaints concerning Alfred Lascelles, Football Accountant, of Basle. At present we will say no more.

"IS THIS JUSTICE?" (Harwich).—If, as you confess, you returned to your ship "three sheets in the wind," or at any rate "half seas over," after Christmas leave, you must not complain. We admit your punishment did not err on the side of mercy, but discipline must be maintained. Suppose the German fleet had attacked Harwich when you were in that hilarious condition? It is too terrible to contemplate.

"CHUCKING IT" (Glasgow) tells us he is dissatisfied with the treatment meted out to him by Lucas and Scott, Football Accountants, Lucerne. We presume from the *nom-de-plume* he has selected that he is not taking any more.

W. B. (London, N.).—Foreign labour is certainly one of the secondary causes of poverty in England; but the root of the trouble is Party politics, which prevent all the great social problems being dealt with on commonsense, business lines.

W. K. F. (Manchester).—If we had to choose between saving our sweetheart or wife and our mother from drowning, we should certainly rescue mother first. One can get another sweetheart or wife, you see, but a mother cannot be replaced. All the same, we hope *Mrs. Bull* will not see this.

"CONSTANT READER" (Stockwell).—You cannot do better than send your old Christmas cards to some children's hospital.

S. P. (Meirsbrook).—The obvious moral of our recent little story, "A Study in Supplication," is that it is an ill wind that blows nobody good—and a good wind that blows nobody harm.

G. T. (Finsbury Park) fears we "have not read the Christian Gospels." His alarm is groundless.

"VIGILANT" (Poplar), referring to the recent Yankee clockwork collecting scheme for the Y.M.C.A., says, "It is right down impudence to build a show on credit and then expect the public to pay for it, more especially when Bart.'s Hospital, which is doing a grand work amongst the poor, is in debt to the tune of £50,000." And so say a great many of us.

A. R. (Coventry).—We cannot provide you with names of firms who would assist you to bring out a patent. Get a directory of manufacturers and write to those likely to be interested.

"DIVER" (Elswick), who is anxious to work "in the caverns deep of the ocean cold" in Australia, should write to the Official Secretary of the Australian Commonwealth, 72, Victoria Street, S.W. He had better also read what we have had to say about Australian emigration.

W. F. W. (Battersea Park).—The spring and autumn are the best times of the year to visit Morocco, the Canary Islands, and the Mediterranean. Tripoli, we understand, is likely to be very unhealthy for visitors for some time to come.

"SLEEVE BOARD" (Salford).—Naturalisation fees amount to about £5 10s. No Act has been passed since the Naturalisation Act of 1870, excepting the Aliens Act of 1905, which is more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

W. H. S. (Forest Gate).—We know nothing about C. Levy and Co., "Business Agents," of 181, Euston Road, N.W., but 10s. 6d. strikes us as being a big fee to charge for finding a situation as baker's vanman. If we were you, we would pay the balance when we got the job—and not before.

"DUM SPIRO SPERO" (Dorset).—Consumption is such a malignant and devastating disease that no precaution against its spreading can be too stringent. At the same time, there is room for the local Health Authorities to exercise tact in administering the new Act.

F. B. (Leicester).—The time rules for employees issued by the firm you mention are drastic, but not illegal. You must give them credit for the kindly consideration shown in the last sentence—"Any employee who habitually loses time is earnestly advised to find a place where the hours will suit his convenience." They can't say fairer than that.

C. N. (South Norwood) very kindly invites us to the "Men's Own Meeting" at the Anerley Congregational Church, to hear an address on "Independence in Politics." We are sorry we cannot accept, for Sunday is the one day in the week on which we try to be independent of politics.

T. E. (Vancouver) complains of the steerage accommodation on board the C.P.R. s.s. *Empress of India*. The trials of Canadian emigrants appear to start as soon as they leave Liverpool, and—judging from the letters we are constantly receiving—to continue until they get back, disillusioned, to the Old Country.

L. M. M. (Cemmaes).—What is the use of pursuing a Continental or any other bookmaker in the courts? If he appeared, the chances are he would plead the Gaming Act, and your last case would be worse than the first. If the Turf Guardian Society cannot help you, you would be well advised to cut your losses.

"SNOWBALL" (Halifax) asks us to decide a dispute as to which enjoys the larger circulation, the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Daily News*. We do not wish to hurt the feelings of the dear old soul, but if we wanted to reach the wider circle of readers we should *not* advertise in the *Daily News*, bless her heart!

J. H. (Sask.).—If you will kindly cast your eye over the heading of this page, you will see that we do not undertake to value books, prints, etc., etc.

C. B. (Bognor) is a sufferer from epilepsy, and being in straitened circumstances, is anxious to obtain a letter of admission to St. Peter's Home for Epileptics, Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. Can any reader help?

"SCOTTY" (Edinburgh).—We have already explained that the authorities object to our offering a prize of £500 for the millionth copy of any one edition of JOHN BULL sold through the ordinary channels. All the same, we shall announce the number in due course, and hope to shake hands and pass the time of day with its possessor.

M. C. (S.E.).—We have never heard of the Kent Colonising Association. Write to the Secretary of the Australian Commonwealth, 72, Victoria Street, S.W., before having any dealings with it.

"FOREIGN" (Scarborough).—If you are inclined neither to advertise nor answer advertisements, we do not know how you are to obtain a clerical appointment abroad. We are not an Employment Agency.

V. M. (London, S.E.) asks us to expose a firm of tailors who charged him 7s. 6d. for a pair of trousers worth only 2s. 11d. But 7s. 6d. trousers are never worth more than 2s. 11d.

"POUNDED" (Leith) tells us he is another victim of Alf. Lascelles, of Basle, who owes him 26s., and that "since he got the bump he has received coupons from Hally Hall and Peter Bell." He will know what to do with them now.

W. S. (Canterbury) sends us the following verses from a song published in 1828:—

> The English now, both low and high,
> Are filled with party-bother;
> Newspapers try to edify
> By bullying one another.
>
> There never were such times—that's flat,
> Since signing Magna-Charta!
> All we can say's—What are they at?
> And mind what we are arter.

We know what *we* are "arter"—a Business Government.

WM. W. MAC (Hull) advances the claim of Sir Thomas Beecham to be included in the next Honours List as Lord Purgus. Lord Rosebery, who also rejoices in the title of Baron Epsom of Epsom, might not like it.

"A CONSTANT READER" (Braintree).—The British Navy is *not* maintaining "the Two Power standard." It ought to have an All-Power one.

[We are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Is "Honours are easy" the Government motto?
Wasn't Winston Churchill's a very "guarded" speech?
Are the Orangemen getting ready to "peel"?
Isn't Germany rather apt to "take a liberty"?
Is "Not fees-able" the medical verdict on the Insurance Act?
Isn't the coal dispute getting rather warm again?
Do they call them "scareoplanes" in Paris now?
Is "The Fire Screen" a grate play?
Is the London Traffic Combine a "going" concern?
Isn't the "Town-criers' contest" promoted by the Yell-oh Press?
Isn't Sacco finding a 1,000 hours' fast rather slow?
Will the London Opera receipts "go up" now seats have "come down"?

"The Kaiser opens his Parliament," we read. And sometimes he "shuts it up."

"The Chink in the Armour," just published, is not by a certain nobleman who recently had a difference with a curio dealer.

King Alfonso, who is growing whiskers, seems to have quite a passion for "heirs."

A "star" class of constables has been created at Sheffield. Composed of course, of "shining lights."

"Morality is a question of latitude," says Mr. Austin Harrison. Yes, the sinner takes too much.

The "skyscraper hat"—Chicago's latest fashion—is 30 inches tall. The height of absurdity.

Jack Johnson, the pugilist, has decided to contest a seat on the Chicago Council. Well, he "knows the ropes."

The shop of the Berlin baker who has just been blessed with his twenty-fifth son no doubt bears the legend "Families Supplied."

Rugeley, Staffs., has been suffering from a water famine. The inhabitants have had to "grin and beer it."

"Love is a free gift," says John Ayscough. Yet it is dear to most of us.

"Do women count?" enquires a contemporary. Yes, everything but the cost.

"The Gray Stocking" is the title of a new book. It will attract notice if well displayed.

At the Hanger Hill Golf Club the caddies are being taught gardening. By some of the players?

"Women have never invented jokes," says Arthur Pendenys. No, they only possess ab-sense of humour.

A Chicago man, who has inherited half a million, doesn't know what to do with it. Why doesn't he marry?

"Children as Playwrights," reads a headline. It is more often the other way about.

"If I was one of those suburban ladies who know nothing——" said a witness at Clerkenwell. But some suburban ladies know a lot.

The Birmingham school which has a sewing-class for boys doubtless wishes to teach them "the hole duty of man."

A Montreal phrenologist offers to read characters of applicants for civic offices. "Lost by a head," the disappointed applicant might say.

The man who steals because he is hungry knows it will be described as the "pinch" of poverty.

At Shoreditch it was stated that a man said to be only fit for the lightest work was seen carrying a piano. But perhaps it was only a baby grand.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

GULLS IN LONDON.

["*The Daily Telegraph*," *recording the return of the sea-gulls to London, refers to it as a pleasant invasion, and says the gulls are very popular in the City.*]

When winter drives the gulls inland,
The town to-them extends its pity,
And lets the whole world understand
All gulls are welcome in the City.

COURTING A STAR.

[*The engagement is announced of Miss Gabrielle Ray, the Gaiety actress and picture-postcard favourite, to Mr. Eric Loder.*]

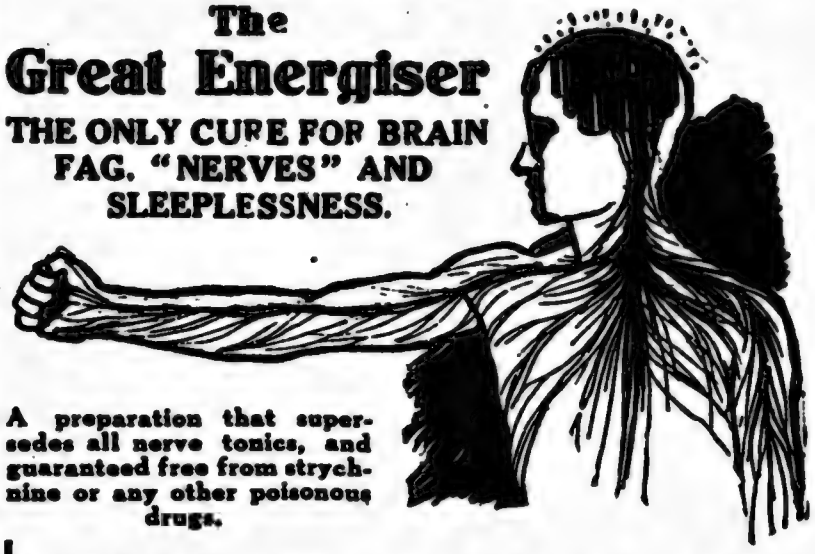
Queen of the firmament of "stars,"
She names the wedding day,
And happy is the mortal who
Has captured such a Ray!

RICARDO.

BRAININE

The Great Energiser

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG. "NERVES" AND SLEEPLESSNESS.



A preparation that supersedes all nerve tonics, and guaranteed free from strychnine or any other poisonous drugs.

Weigh your nerves in the balance and they will NOT be found wanting after BRAININE.

Some Convincing Testimony.

Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P., after a practical test of BRAININE, says:

"You may certainly give me as a reference to the remarkable qualities of BRAININE. Most of my clerks now take it regularly, as well as myself—and I think we get through more work than any other office in London, AND ARE NEVER TIRED. Why don't you advertise it?"

A LEADING HOSPITAL NURSE says:—"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my convalescents take it—and are loud in its praise."

Christchurch, Hants.

"Please send me BRAININE pellets to the value of 2s. 3d., P.O. enclosed. I have taken one box and find they are curing that unreasonable nervousness that really amounts to physical cowardice."

Yours faithfully, A. C. B.

Southsea.

"Enclosed please find P.O. 2s. 3d., for which kindly send me three boxes of BRAININE. I have finished the box I had, and it appears to have done me good, so I am going to try them on my wife, who is a great sufferer from nerves."

Yours truly, A. P.

Newport, *February 9th.*

"DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly send me another box of your BRAININE pellets. I have already nearly finished the box I sent to you for and have derived great benefit from them. I feel all I can do is to thank God that I ever saw your advertisement in *Mrs. Bull*. For the last six years I have been an awful sufferer from nervous headaches which the doctor called Neuritis. My life has been one of misery, but since taking your pellets life seems worth living. I have tried everything I have heard of and nothing seems lasting. I am afraid these pellets might be only easing me for a time like other things I have taken, but have never found anything to ease me so much as your pellets. I have also recommended them to my friends.

"I think you should advertise them more for the benefit of poor sufferers like myself."

Yours gratefully, Miss J.

Leicester.

"Please find herewith enclosed 2s. 3d. for two boxes of BRAININE, as per your offer. I intend sticking to them; have finished taking first box."

Respectfully yours, A.

BRAININE—Little pellets are swiftly, surely, and permanently curing many thousands of distressing nervous complaints.

BRAININE is sold in boxes 1s. 1½d., and will be mailed post free to any address in the United Kingdom.

Your Chemist and Stores can obtain BRAININE for you from their wholesale houses. If, however, there is any difficulty or delay in getting it please cut out this order form and post direct to us, with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose P.O. 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full) .....

.....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Fire Screen."

Alfred Sutro has never submitted for public opinion a more highly polished play than "The Fire Screen." Acted with complete understanding of the characters by the Garrick Theatre company, criticism is disarmed. It is impossible to better the best, and as the author so glibly translates into English the French saying, *que voulez vous*, I can but repeat his words, and say "what would you?" A battle twixt a good woman, and an out and out "wrong-un" is always interesting, no matter how crudely it is fought—but when the weapons used are of such exquisitely refined metal as Mr. Sutro's, the fascination increases a thousandfold. You may argue, and perhaps not unreasonably ask, "Would any decent sort of a fellow, who has open-eyed 'taken on' the vain, designing, pretty doll in petticoats, deliberately give her away to the unselfish loving woman, notwithstanding the deep debt of gratitude he owes her for extricating him from an impasse years ago? Would he, furthermore, allow the 'soiled dove' to visit his bachelor apartments, and lock the door when she attempts to escape from the trap, in order that the infatuated husband of Martha Hadden might catch the couple together and thus be disillusioned?" It possibly may be rather a shabby trick to do, but Angela Verinder is a velvet-pawed trickster herself, and when her nails do show, by jove they leave the traces of their scratches behind them. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier are admirably suited. The one, as a rich man, has gathered honey from every flower that has dropped at his feet, the other, as patient Martha Hadden, devoted body and soul to Oliver Hadden, the scientific doctor and discoverer of a serum which cures that terrible brain trouble known as meningitis. Miss Kate Cutler, as the purring little supposed innocent, hits this lady's slyness off to a nicety. J. Fisher White is just the actor for Mr. Hadden, and Thomas Weguelin, the clever son of a clever mother, gives an admirable idea of Parker, Horace Travers' confidential servant. When I tell you that I went on two consecutive evenings to see "The Fire Screen" and was more enthusiastic at the second performance than I was at the first, you may guess how Alfred Sutro's sparkling comedy appealed to me. As for the audiences, they were thoroughly engrossed and absorbed by the story, and if applause means anything, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier are in for a real good thing at the Garrick.

OUR £1,000 FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

RESULT OF COMPETITION NO. 5.

We wish somebody would win that £1,000. So that your chances may be doubled, we shall next week produce Two Separate and Distinct Football Competitions of £1,000 each.

Some hundreds of letters have reached us from our readers asking why we do not run a "Striking Out" Competition. In order to please all tastes, we are incurring the double risk and are giving you the double chance of annexing a fortune. Win one or both of the £1,000 Prizes and we shall be delighted. No paper has ever made such a startling offer. It has been left for us to create a record in the matter of Competitions. Full particulars will be given with the Competitions next week.

All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope, and their names should be distinctly written on the back; but it having been suggested to us that some of our readers object to writing their names and addresses on the back of their envelopes, in future a *nom de plume* (without any address) will suffice, provided that when claims are sent in, competitors will let us know the *nom de plume* they have adopted.

This week seemed to be rather a difficult week for our competitors to get near to the correct result.

Mr. Lightfoot, of 45, Wood Street, Westerminster, gave the following:—

	Goals.			Goals.
Derby County	1	*v.*	Blackburn Rovers ..	2
Wolverhampton W. ..	3	*v.*	Lincoln City	1
Coventry	1	*v.*	Manchester U.....	5
Queen's P.R.	4	*v.*	Exeter	2

This was the nearest to the actual figures, which were as follows:—

	Goals.			Goals.
Derby County	1	*v.*	Blackburn Rovers ..	2
Wolverhampton W. ..	2	*v.*	Lincoln City	1
Coventry	1	*v.*	Manchester U.....	5
Stockport	3	*v.*	Huddersfield	1

"Consuetudine animus rursus te huc inducet"

The habit of taking Mustard regularly at meals is one that grows as its benefit in whetting the appetite and promoting digestion is realised. The young man who "looks for the Mustard pot" is laying the foundation of a good digestion for old age. Especially if he insists on

COLMAN'S D.S.F. mustard

PARI-MUTUEL!

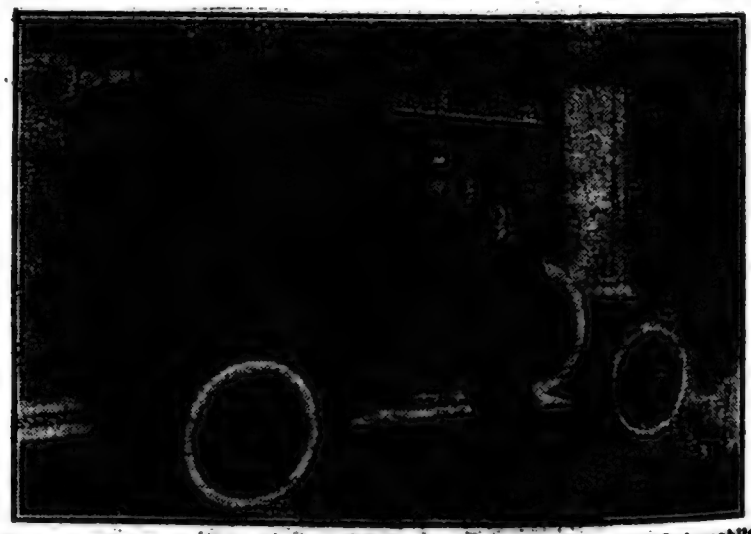
Write to . . .

JOHN McLAUCHLAN,

Turf and Football Accountant,

Postage 2½d. Post Cards 1d.

Lucerne, Switzerland,



Mr. John McLauchlan going to business in his 40 H.P. 'Brazier' Automobile.

FOR BOOK of Pari-mutuel Tickets on the Lincolnshire Handicap.

DERBY

and all principal Races in 1912. Sent post free on application.

I guarantee to give away £1,000 on each race. No skill required, no hard conditions. Result posted to all subscribers before the race is run.

Letter Commissions (*Payments Nightly.*)
5, CROWN PLACE, LEITH.

Telegrams: "GALLOP," EDINBURGH.

BE SURE TO LOOK AT THE OUTSIDE BACK-COVER.

BARGAINS IN
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE.
TO BE SOLD PRIVATELY BY

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, W.

The following goods having been removed from Holland Road, Kensington; Glenheim Mansions, Lisson Grove; Summerville Road, Thames Ditton; Maddox Street, W.; Goldhurst Terrace, Hampstead; Westhill, St. Leonard's-on-Sea; Theobald's Park; and elsewhere, are offered at half the original cost, and comprise, amongst other articles too numerous to mention, the following general household effects:—BEDROOM FURNITURE: 6 oak bedroom suites, from £4 15s.; 3 white enamelled bedroom suites, from £4 4s.; 5 solid oak bedroom suites, with large wardrobe and dressing-table, with side cheval glasses, £5 17s. 6d.; walnut bedroom suite, reflex mirrors, to dressing table, £8 8s.; an inlaid Sheraton design mahogany bedroom suite, £7 17s. 6d.; a similar suite, £10 15s.; 4 ft. 6 in. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, oval glass door to wardrobe, 12 guineas; 4 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with Beaconsfield wardrobe, £15 10s.; 5 ft. mahogany bedroom suite, with 2 oval doors to wardrobe, reflex mirrors to dressing-table, 19 guineas; 6 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, fitted drawers and trays, 24 guineas; 6 ft. Louis design mahogany bedroom suite, 28 guineas; 6 ft. walnut bedroom suite, 40 guineas; 7 ft. inlaid Sheraton design bedroom suite, with bow front to wardrobe, 60 guineas; 7 ft. satinwood bedroom suite, 10 guineas; several inlaid chests from 50s.; 6 ft. walnut wardrobe, 15 guineas; 6 ft. 6 in. mahogany wardrobe, fitted drawers and trays, 12 guineas; several iron bedsteads from 9s.; black and brass bedsteads, 10s.; full-size black and brass bedsteads, with wire springs, 21s.; 9 oak bedsteads, 15s.; pair brass twin bedsteads, 5 guineas; pair white and brass twin bedsteads, 3 guineas; inlaid Sheraton bedstead, including wire spring mattress, £3 15s.; full size all brass bedstead, 60s.; pair mahogany twin bedsteads, £2 19s. 6d.; full-size all brass square tube Italian bedstead, 8 guineas; and several others up to 18 guineas. The DINING ROOM FURNITURE comprises fumed oak dining-room suite, consisting of large size sideboard, 6 chairs, 2 carving chairs, overmantel, dining table, rug, &c., will accept £13 7s. 6d. the lot; most massive carved oak Elizabethan design dining-room set, consisting of sideboard with bevelled plate-glass back, oxydised copper fittings, fitted cellarette, 6 massive carved oak chairs, and 2 carving chairs to match, dining table, 16 guineas the set; a similar set, with large sideboard and 2 lounge easy chairs, upholstered in red leather, 25 guineas; magnificent oak dining-room suite, £8 15s.; oak suite in green pegamoid, £3 19s. 6d.; sideboard to match, 4 guineas; overmantel, 30s.; Queen Anne design dining-room suite £5 15s.; sideboard to match, £7 15s.: dining table £2 15s.; handsome Queen Anne design mahogany dining-room set, upholstered in red leather, £7 19s. 6d.; dining-table to match, 4 guineas Chippendale design set of chairs, ball and claw feet, exquisite design, 12 guineas; oak, walnut and mahogany sideboards, large variety in stock, from £4 10s. to 40 guineas; about 50 odd dining-room chairs; 20 dining tables, from 21s.; oak bureau, 21s.; pedestal writing tables; roll top desks, all sizes; revolving bookcases; a most superb Chesterfield, and 2 large club easy chairs to match in green leather, £15 10s.; mahogany secretaire bookcase, enclosed by 2 glass doors, cupboards, under 8 guineas. The DRAWING-ROOM FURNITURE comprises very fine drawing-room suite, upholstered in art tapestry, £3 10s.; another design suite, £6 10s.; satin-wood finish drawing-room suite, 7 guineas; an elegant design Louis XIV. gilt drawing-room suite, £19 10s.; another set, similar design, 14 guineas; Chesterfield drawing-room suite with 2 large lounge easy chairs, and 4 solid mahogany chairs, most exquisite design, £12 19s. 6d.; large size double sprung Chesterfield and 2 large easy chairs to match, covered in silk tapestry, 22 guineas; set of Dutch Marqueterie chairs, 14 guineas; handsome design Vernis Marten cabinet, 16 guineas; another, 12 guineas Buhl cabinet, 11 guineas; another, 14 guineas; table *en suite*, 8 guineas; Chesterfields from £3 10s. to 10 guineas; Chippendale design cabinet, £2 19s. 6d.; similar one, £5 15s.; Sheraton design cabinet, £3 15s.; Sheraton design specimen table, 50s.; occasional tables from 12s. 6d.; occasional chairs, 50 in stock, from 6s. 6d.; 2 white enamel overmantels, 18s. 6d. and 27s. 6d.; oval gilt table, 10 guineas; pair 9-light candelbra, 6 guineas, 5-light candelbra, 10 guineas; clock in ormolu case, £8 15s. piano, 8 guineas; an upright piano, iron frame, £12 15s.; ditto by Carl Strauss 20 guineas; and several others in stock up to 40 guineas; grand pianos by Steinway, Bechstein, Blüthner, &c. Large stock of carpets, Tapestry, Mirzapore, Turkey and Oriental carpets and rugs to match, from 18s. 6d.; a large variety of Axminster and Wilton carpets, always in stock from £2 15s. HALL FURNITURE: Hall stands from 20s.; hall cupboard, 3 guineas, large quantity of electro-plate, china, cutlery, kitchen utensils, curtains, bed and table linen, &c.

Country buyers should call and inspect these goods. All goods Town or Country free of charge, or can remain stored 12 months free of charge. All goods can be seen where they are now lying for the convenience of sale, any day from 9 till 9, except Saturday, when we close at 7 o'clock, at

The NEWMAN & OXFORD STREET FURNITURE & ANTIQUE DEPOSITORIES (Ltd.),

92, 93, & 94, NEWMAN STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.,

One door from Oxford Street, three minutes from Tottenham Court Road and Oxford Circus, and adjoining all principal tubes. Telephone, 1307 Central. £10,000 worth of second-hand furniture always on show. Catalogues now ready. Special attention given to Export Orders. Country buyers should send for catalogue.

Don't Wear a Truss!

After Thirty Years' Experience Have Produced an Appliance for Men, Women or Children that Cures Rupture.

I SEND IT ON TRIAL.

If you have tried most everything else, come to me. Where others fail is where I have my greatest success. Send attached coupon to-day and I will send you free my illustrated book on Rupture and its cure, showing my Appliance and giving you prices and names of many people who have tried it and are extremely grateful. It is instant relief where all others fail. Remember I use no salves, no harness, no lies.

I make it to your measure and send it to you on a strict guarantee of satisfaction or money refunded, and I have put my price so low that anybody, rich or poor, can buy it. I send on trial to prove what I say is true. You are the judge, and once having seen my illustrated book and read it you will be as enthusiastic as my thousands of patients whose letters are on file in my office. Fill out free coupon below and post to-day.

The above is C. E. Brooks who has been Curing Rupture for over 30 years. If Ruptured Write him to-day.

FREE INFORMATION COUPON.

C. E. Brooks, 455, Bank Buildings (Corner of Portugal St.), Kingsway, London, W.C.

Please send me by post in plain wrapper your Illustrated Book and full information about your Appliance for the cure of rupture.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Please write plainly.

Best Vulcanite Mouthpieces scientifically constructed to minimise the pressure upon the teeth.

This unique design, made in all the favourite patterns, ensures a thoroughly cool and comfortable smoke.

The general excellence of this pipe will delight even the most discriminating smoker.

Price **2/6** each.

(Silver mounted.)

Of all Tobacconists and Stores.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of **Potter's Asthma Cure**, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For FREE SAMPLE send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. [Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

GRAVES

IMPERIAL SILVER ENGLISH LEVER

is British-made, has jewelled escapement, Automatic Chronometer Balance, Breguet Hairspring, and all recent perfections. The Cases are well proportioned, closely fitting, and are heavily wrought from Solid English Hall-marked Silver. Warranted Five Years.

2/6 WITH ORDER

WE DELIVER this magnificent English Lever to all approved orders for 2/6 with order. 2/6 on delivery if satisfied, and balance in 10 monthly payments of 4/- Money refunded if the Watch is not considered entirely satisfactory. 2/- in the £ Discount for Cash.

CATALOGUE FREE. Send a Post Card for our handsomely Illustrated Art Catalogue of Ladies' and Gent's Gold and Silver Watches, Lovely Jewellery, and an enormous variety of beautiful and useful goods for presents at economical prices. Ask for Catalogue B

J. G. GRAVES Ltd. SHEFFIELD.

RACING NOTES.

By W. LOTINGA.

["*Larry Lynx*" *of* THE PEOPLE, "*Double U. L.*" *of* LOTINGA'S WEEKLY, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* THE GLOBE.]

More Partisanship.

One of the greatest benefits to sport universally which could be brought about at the present time would be by the eradication of ALL jealousy between the proprietors of sporting newspapers, so that in unison they might resist the attacks of the enemies of sport and strengthen their position to aid every essential of sport, no matter *which* of the newspapers originally created or was the chief one in fostering the particular event.

Medley.

Lotinga's Weekly offers £500 for naming the "double" of the Lincoln and National.

I hear from South Africa that the honours recently conferred upon certain of that colony's magnates have raised astonishment, if nothing stronger. But it is not true that we shall soon have Sir Loo Levy as the pioneer of the no limit system.

An Old Jockey's Plight.

The selling of a few books through my paragraphs has enabled Harry Luke, the erstwhile jockey, just to hang on until his Bentinck Fund donation of £10, each six months, comes along, to go to Devonshire to settle down to a bare existence, and as it were to drop entirely out of the world. I have certainly never tried to do a good turn for anyone who is more grateful than poor Luke, and have done it because of realising what his position of literal starvation must have been to one who, about twenty years ago, was the popular idol, like Frank Wootton or Danny Maher of to-day. I still have several of "Luke's Reminiscences" of the Turf for sale at whatever few coppers my readers care to send.

Prophetic.

If JOHNSTOWN LAD runs for the Leamington Steeplechase to-day (Thursday) he will win it, but the best betting card is at Hurst Park, where the unlucky

BOUTON ROUGE

forms the "good thing" of the meeting in the Teddington Selling Plate on Friday. I don't see how MASTER-AT-ARMS is going to be beaten in the Champion Steeplechase. CARSEY ought to win the Thames Handicap, and whatever holds FLAXEN—who, as usual, ought to be backed *each way*—will take Saturday's Grange Handicap. Hartigan's horses CHILI II. and SCOTNEY control the Maiden and Novices' Plates respectively. The safest bet of the whole week is upon

FLYING LORIS

at Haydock Park in whichever race he runs, and it applies equally should the unlucky animal wait for Manchester. His absence from Haydock would let up LE VISO in the Great Central Steeplechase.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

By "McW."

Aston Villa, the heroes, are trounced by Reading, the despised of the South. Lowly Bury go to Everton in the Cup Tie and draw with the proud Toffee-men on the Saturday. A fine performance! On the following Thursday the same Everton thrash the same Bury on the same ground by six goals to none. How can you reconcile such happenings? Let me see what I can do to bring you joy next Saturday, February 17th.

PROBABLES.

Bolton Wanderers.	Derby County
Bradford City	Swindon
Manchester United	Bristol Rovers
Burnley	West Ham.

POSSIBLES.

Preston N. E.	Stockport
Tottenham H.	Wolves
Gainsboro'	Brighton
Northampton	Stoke.

The others may be classed as Doubtful.

BIG £1,000 LINCOLNSHIRE, NATIONAL "DOUBLE." The "RACING STUD" (Estd. 1900). Praised by L. Lynx of the "PEOPLE," "JOHN BULL," "SP. LIFE," &c. The "RACING WORLD" says:—"Remarkable run of big successes for years past." Don't forget our "big" surprise GLENSIDE for Nat.," 1911, and many other "big" sensations. We have special "inside" advice for the L. and N. "DOUBLE." & RACES AT THEIR MERCY. Act before markets dry "up." Send stamped address. The "RACING STUD," High Road, Turnham Green, W.

Football!

Established 16 Years.

WHITE, FISHER & CO. THE WORLD'S PREMIER Football Accountants.

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

beg to announce that

GIGANTIC PRIZES

ARE BEING WON WEEKLY.

You must apply at once if you wish to be listed this season. Over £10,000 paid away to clients during December alone. Nothing barred in the four leagues or Cup. Don't wait for coupons, write your selections on plain paper. Good prices returned. Postage 2½d. Letters must bear a 2 p.m. postmark at the latest. Not less than four home teams accepted. Note what the papers say:—

Week-end Special Supplement, Wednesday, December 20. Re White, Fisher & Co., the Football Commission Agents, of Basle: "This firm is of the straightest, and readers can most fearlessly deal with them. They do an enormous business, and they share with Cæsar's wife the reputation of being above suspicion."

The Editor of the Racing Judge, October 7th, says:—"A friend tells us that one of the sights of Basle, Switzerland, is the arrival of White, Fisher & Co.'s mail every Sunday."

'FOOTBALL.'

Do your Business with

W. & A. FOX,

Football Accountants,

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

LOTINGA'S WEEKLY.—This firm has established itself as reliable, and their terms are both liberal and fair to both parties.

FREE! FREE!!

Silver-Plated Cigarette Lighters

GIVEN AWAY EVERY WEEK

Absolutely Free.

1d. Postcard will bring you Full Particulars.

HARRY APPLETON the man who always pays.

BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

Has no connection whatsoever with any firm trading under similar name. Write for my usual unique terms.

£100 FREE PRIZE OFFERED WEEKLY.

Postcards 1d. Letters 2½d.

Free Postage. Free Postage.

FOOTBALL!

Were you welshed on Dec. 9th or Dec. 30th? If so make certain of not being welshed again and entrust your business to

H. HAMILTON & CO.,

The Oldest Established Football Accountants in the World.

What the Press says of us:—

Lotinga's Weekly for Dec. 30th, 1911, says:—

"It is absolutely the punter's own fault if he is now welshed at Football betting when there are such firms as H. HAMILTON & CO. transacting business on Football."

Send a postcard (postage 1d.) for the most liberal price list issued.

£25 *FREE OFFER open to all Clients.*

H. HAMILTON & Co., Basle, Switzerland.

FOOTBALL

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flashing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Basle, Switzerland."

BERT FRY, BASLE 2, SWITZERLAND.

"JOHN BULL" says: "Every week we are inundated with complaints from people who have been defrauded by bogus football accountants. To a very great extent it serves them right, as, instead of accepting fictitious odds offered them by strangers, they could entrust their business to a reliable firm, like that of Bert Fry, and be sure of receiving their winnings."

Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly.

Free Postage.

FOOTBALL.

Send for Price lists. Every match in the 1st Scottish, 1st and 2nd English and Southern Leagues to choose from.

PATRICK FARLEY,

Turf and Football Accountant.

LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND; and 19, HOWARD ST., GLASGOW.

NO LIMIT TO DOUBLES OR TREBLES. LETTERS and COMMISSIONS. Pay at Night. Write for Terms.

£1,000 FOR THREE RESULTS £1,000

No Entrance Fee. £52 10s. MUST BE WON EACH WEEK.

SOMETHING STARTLING IN WAY OF FOOTBALL COMPETITIONS. SEE PAGE 230

Many readers have written to say that they object to putting their name and address on the back of their envelopes. Accordingly in future a *nom de plume* will suffice, provided that when claims are sent in competitors will let us know the *nom de plume* they have adopted. Your name and address need not in future be given. Read our announcement concerning an extra £1,000 Competition on page 230.

Owing to the fact that quite a number of clubs will be concerned in the Third Round of the Cup-Tie Competition, we must modify our conditions somewhat. In the first column are given eight games to be decided in the Cup Ties. In Column Two are given ten games to be decided in the First and Second Divisions of the English League. In Column Three are given nine games to be decided in the First and second Divisions of the Southern League.

All that you have to do is to state which two clubs in Column One competing against each other, which two clubs in Column Two, and which two in Column Three will between them score the greatest number of goals, and give the actual scores.

If your estimate is the only correct one you will receive £1,000 for your skill. If your estimate proves to be the one most nearly accurate

You Must Win £52 10 0.

Supposing, for instance, that the matches resulted as follows, and that the number of goals in the highest scoring games were as given herewith:—

BRADFORD	... 2	v. BRADFORD C.	5
SHEFFIELD W.	3	v. ASTON VILLA	5
TREHARRIS	... 2	v. CROYDON COM.	4

and you gave these figures correctly, you would be £1,000 in pocket unless some other competitor tied with you. Were your forecast, although not absolutely correct, the nearest to the correct results, you would win the Prize of Fifty Guineas.

If you are looking for guidance, let us recommend to you the views of the great Football Writer and Expert, "McW.," who contributes "Football Favourites" in another column. Each week, too, you will find "Football Fancies" in "Lotinga's Weekly."

Do not run away with the idea that we do not wish you to win the Mammoth Prize:

The sooner the £1,000 is won the better pleased we shall be.

We realise its advertising value.

Remember, in conclusion, that you must select clubs actually competing against each other on Saturday, February 24th.

No. 8. COUPON for Matches to be Played SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th.

The two opposing clubs in Column One, the two in Column Two, and the two in Column Three which, between them, will total the largest number of goals and the goals which each will score will be as follows:—

ENGLISH CUP (All Ties). Goals		Goals	ENGLISH LEAGUE (Divs. I. & II). Goals		Goals	SOUTHERN LEAGUE (Divs. I. & II.). Goals		Goals
Bradford	v. Bradford City		Sheffield W.	v. Aston Villa		Norwich City	v. Luton	
Fulham	v. Northampton		Bury	v. Liverpool		Crystal Palace	v. Leyton	
Oldham	v. Everton		Notts County	v. Tottenham H.		Plymouth	v. Stoke	
Bolton	v. Barnsley		Chelsea	v. Burnley		Exeter	v. Bristol Rovers	
Sunderland	v. W. Brom. A.		Clapton Orient	v. Notts Forest		Queen's Park R.	v. Millwall	
Blackburn	v. Wol'hampton		Bristol City	v. Grimsby		Cardiff	v. Merthyr	
West Ham	v. Swindon		Birmingham	v. Gainsborough		Treharris	v. Croydon	
Reading	v. Man. United		Huddersfield	v. Leicester F.		Pontypridd	v. Mardy	
			Glossop	v. Leeds City		Ton Pentre	v. Chesham	
			Hull City	v. Stockport				

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £52 10s. will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weeky" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly"
3. £1,000 will be awarded to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £52 10s. will be given to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £52 10s. will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence in the matter of the conduct of this competition will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competition owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims by the Thursday following the matches played.
8. All competitors must put the name and number of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names only must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.
9. Competitors sending in claims must forward copy of coupons to which their claims refer.
10. When two or more matches in the same League result in an equal number of goals, then the match including the team highest on the League table the previous Saturday will count.

Mark your envelopes "Football No. 8" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day on Thursday, February 22nd next.

See page 230 for Result of Competition No. 5.

£250 THE GREAT "FOOTBALL FINAL" COMPETITION £250

On February 24th next sixteen clubs engage in the Third Round of the competition proper for the Football Cup.

Of all these sixteen only four can appear in the Semi-Finals, and only two in the Final Tie at the Crystal Palace. Only one can win the Cup.

Students of football form are asked to test their skill by filling in the particulars given on our "Skill" Coupon.

£250 will be given to the competitor (or competitors) whose coupon is correct in every particular.

If no competitor forecasts the exact results, £52 10 0 will be given to the sender of the most correct attempt. In the event of a tie, the money will be divided between the successful competitors.

The conditions governing our other Football Competition hold good in this case.

Mark your envelopes "Final," and send them so that they will be received at JOHN BULL Offices, 93 & 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day, Friday, February 23rd next.

It is only by knowledge of football form that you can succeed in giving all the particulars required. Therefore we advise you to give your attention to "Football Selections" which appear each week in this journal. Your coupon MUST be taken from either JOHN BULL or "Lotinga's Weekly."

Further offers of large Money Prizes will be made after the decision of the Third Round.

COUPON.

3 THE FOOTBALL CUP COMPETITION. 3

The following four Clubs in my judgment will contest the Semi-Finals. The number of goals each will score in the actual deciding games are as given below:

Clubs	Goals	Clubs	Goals
.....		v.	
.....		v.	

The following two Clubs will contest the Final Tie this season and I judge the number of goals each will score in the actual deciding game to be

Club	Goals	Club	Goals
.....		v.	

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

No Entrance Fee.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BIG FOOTBALL PRIZES SEE PAGE 230

"EXCELDA" HANDKERCHIEFS

Two Gold Medals Awarded

A Special Fabric of Superior Quality

The "EXCELDA" Handkerchief is a perfect imitation of Silk, Superior in Quality, Pure White, and Dainty Designs. Sold by the Retail all over the Kingdom at one third the Cost of Silk or Linen.

When buying insist upon having the Genuine "EXCELDA."

[STEELE'S ADVT. SERV.]

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